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What happened

The coalition against ISIL

Efforts by world leaders to present a united front against ISIL in response to the Paris massacres suffered a major setback this week when Turkey shot down a Russian warplane over its border with Syria. Turkey, a NATO member, said the jet had violated its airspace – a claim furiously denied by the Kremlin. Vladimir Putin called it a “stab in the back” by “the accomplices of terrorists”, and warned of “serious consequences”.

The incident came hours before François Hollande, the French president, was due to meet Barack Obama in the White House as part of his drive to forge a “grand coalition” against ISIL based on increased cooperation between the West and Russia. The United Nations Security Council last week put aside four years of division to endorse unanimously a resolution calling for countries to take “all necessary measures” to eliminate ISIL. David Cameron said the vote showed the breadth of support for “decisive action” in Syria. The British PM was due on Thursday to set out his “comprehensive strategy” for defeating ISIL. He hopes to win a Commons mandate next week for extending the current air campaign in Iraq against the jihadist group into Syria.



Putin: A “stab in the back”

What the editorials said

“Not since the Second World War has mankind witnessed such a tangled web of animosity as the conflict in Syria,” said the Daily Mail. And now, as if the situation weren’t “toxic” enough, Turkey has shot down a Russian plane. Do we really want to inject our bombers into this mess? The last time Cameron threatened to bomb Syria, he wanted to attack troops loyal to Bashar al-Assad; now “he plans to blitz the president’s enemies. Surely such surreal inconsistency should give him pause”. We mustn’t repeat the mistakes of the Iraq campaign, said The Observer. Before we act, let’s be very clear about our strategy. “How long would a military campaign last and what are the criteria for success?” What will we do if an RAF pilot is taken captive?

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan do hold “sobering lessons”, said The Economist, yet the wrong ones are being drawn in this case. While modern armies may indeed be bad at rebuilding countries, they’re “good at driving jihadis off territory”. And that’s worth doing in Syria, preferably with a UN-mandated force of Turkish, Saudi and Gulf Arab troops. “Breaking up the would-be caliphate would destroy the aura of invincibility which constitutes a large part of [ISIL’s] attraction”, and neutralise territory now being used to raise money and train thousands of potential terrorists.

What happened

Tunisia declares state of emergency

The Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi declared a state of emergency across the country last Wednesday, and imposed a curfew in the capital, Tunis, following a terrorist attack on a bus carrying the presidential guard, which left 12 people dead and 20 people wounded. The number included four civilians, according to the Tunisian Health Ministry. The bomb exploded shortly before 5pm on Avenue Mohamed V, near the city’s 7 November clock tower. ISIL have since claimed responsibility for the attack. According to a statement by the terrorist group, a Tunisian named Abou Abdallah Al Tounissi reportedly boarded the bus wearing an explosive belt several hundred metres from the interior ministry while it was picking up guards.

The attack marks the third major assault by ISIL on Tunisia this year, following an attack on the country’s Bardo National Museum in the capital in March which left



The capital is under the highest alert

21 people dead, and an attack on the tourist resort of Port El Kantaoui in June which killed 38 foreigners. Next month, Tunisia will mark five years since the Arab Spring revolution, in which the country’s then-leader Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali was overthrown and replaced by a democratically elected government.

While democracy in Tunisia appears “entrenched after two series of successful elections, security is in crisis as the country reaps the fallout of fundamentalism in one neighbour, Algeria, and full-scale civil war in the other, Libya”, said The Guardian. In the previous two attacks, the terrorists were trained in ISIL’s Libyan

headquarters in Sabratha – just 60 miles from the border with Tunisia. Following the most recent attack the border with Libya has been officially closed, but Tunisia’s small “cash-strapped army” has struggled to police the mountainous infiltration routes used by ISIL and other organisations.

It wasn’t all bad

A Toronto couple have cancelled their plans for a lavish wedding and are instead using money set aside for their big day to sponsor a Syrian refugee family’s resettlement in Canada. Samantha Jackson and Farzin Yusefian still got married, in a small civil ceremony last month, and asked guests to donate instead of giving gifts. So far, they’ve raised about \$17,000 of the \$20,000 needed to sponsor a family of four. “We are truly privileged to have had the opportunity to use our wedding for a greater cause than our own,” Yusefian said.

A Frenchman has claimed a world record by walking 500 metres on a piece of elastic suspended high above the Utah desert. Théo Sanson, 28, stretched the line from the edge of a mountain to the top of a nearby rock tower – and then stunned onlookers by casually walking across it. Sanson (pictured) was practising a sport known as “slacklining”, in which people walk across slack lines without the balancing beams used by tightrope walkers. However, he did have a tether, which would have caught him had he slipped. Sanson’s distance is believed to be the longest ever covered by a slackliner.



Glenn Calderbank was browsing Craigslist’s (a US website similar to Dubizzle) in search of some marble slabs when he saw a misplaced ad from a woman looking for a kidney transplant. The New Jersey contractor, who lost his first wife to kidney failure, felt compelled to reach out. Calderbank befriended Nina Saria— who suffers from an autoimmune disorder that causes kidney failure— and is scheduled to donate a kidney next month. “I’m scared to death,” he said. “But I want to help. I want to save this woman’s life because, in this rare instance, I’m the only one who can.”

What the commentators said

"Here we go again," said Steve Richards in *The Independent*. Stand by for a sombre announcement that we are at war. In the UK MPs are deciding "whether to be Churchill or Chamberlain" – as if adding a few UK bombs to the thousands that have rained down on this region over recent months will suddenly make the world a safer place. It might not achieve much, said Stephen Glover in the *Daily Mail*, but it's a better option than "dumb inertia" in the face of ISIL's burgeoning campaign of global terrorism. If we're already bombing ISIL in Iraq, it's illogical not to go after it in its Syrian stronghold too. "The terrorists don't recognise existing borders and nor should we." Let's face it: we're already a target.

Britain should join the campaign against ISIL in Syria, agreed Dominic Lawson in *The Sunday Times* – if only as a gesture of solidarity with France. "At certain times, symbolism becomes of great importance." But let's not kid ourselves that we're embarking on a new Battle of Britain. Talk of ISIL being an "existential threat" to the West is excitable nonsense. Nazi Germany was an existential threat. This militant group is a "death cult of imbeciles". The men who attacked Paris were "fools, former petty criminals and drug users, whose abject failures at becoming productive members of society somehow mutated into suicidal Islamist nihilism" (see Talking points, page 25).

The problem with intensifying the campaign against ISIL, said Philip Gordon in the *FT*, is not that it won't make any difference. It's that these efforts target the symptoms of the problem rather than the cause. "That cause, to simplify, is that tens of millions of Sunni Muslims living between Damascus and Baghdad – and millions more in Europe and elsewhere – are resentful, insecure and humiliated by the politics of the region." The 2003 Iraq invasion, and the decision to disband the Iraqi army, disenfranchised a mass of armed Sunni men. The sectarian policies of Iraq's new Shia leaders, along with the brutal repression of Syria's largely Sunni opposition, then exacerbated tensions. Our priority now should be de-escalating the Syrian conflict. A ceasefire that ended the regime's daily bombing of Sunnis and paved the way for a political transition "would do more to undermine ISIL than any of the military steps being discussed".

What next?

ISIL militants have begun digging defences around their capital of Raqqa in Syria in preparation for a possible ground offensive, reports *The Times*. Military experts estimate that an operation to take the city would require as many as 50,000 troops.

Russia's war of words with Turkey, meanwhile, will most likely blow over, said Simon Tisdall in *The Guardian*. Russia is now Turkey's second-largest trading partner and it supplies 60% of Turkey's natural gas. This economic dependence is a powerful reason, among several, why the Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, "will not want this latest border incident to escalate... although this is something that may not be entirely within his control".

What the commentators said

Tunisia is often praised for being the "only nation to emerge from the Arab Spring revolts with a largely democratic government", said *The Washington Post*. In October, this resulted in a coalition within the country – made of civil society groups, labour unions and activists – being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their role in "advancing democracy" in the country. There is another side to the country, however: with high youth unemployment and deepening poverty, Tunisia has also seen the greatest exodus of fighters joining ISIL in Syria and Iraq. According to analysts, "the flow of Tunisians into militant ranks [has been caused] by a combination of economic hardship, extremist ideology and greater freedoms" that allowed the extremists to organise and travel after the 2011 uprisings. Under the previous regime they were "jailed and often tortured".



Tunisians mourn those killed

Indeed, the violence has "shaped Tunisia's emerging political order", but it has also earned it the "unwanted distinction as a wellspring of regional extremism", said *The New York Times*. The most recent attacks "have undermined the government's promise of stability, at a time when some are warning that the violence will prompt the authorities to overreact and limit citizen's rights".

What next?

"Scores of defenceless people have been killed by radicals" in Tunisia in recent years, said *The Chronicle*. At a time when the world is still reeling from the attacks in Paris, Lebanon and Mali, "mourning and grieving cannot revive those who have been murdered in this wave of terror".

It's time for accountability: "Weapons captured from fanatical groups should be traced back to the manufacturer", who would then be required to explain how these extremists are getting hold of them.

THE WEEK

While the world was reeling from the terrorist attacks in

Paris, Belgium declared a state of emergency last Saturday as terror raids took place across the capital city (see Talking points, page 25). Police forces in Brussels asked citizens to refrain from using social media to talk about events, in order not to unsuspectingly broadcast information useful to the terrorists about the raids taking place. In an act of solidarity, people across the city decided to respond by tweeting pictures of cats, with the hashtag #BrusselsLockdown. In response, Belgian police authorities tweeted a picture of a bowl of cat food, with the caption "Thank you to all the cats for helping us, this is for you."



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Corbyn's blunders

It is looking increasingly unlikely that Britain's Labour will "survive the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn", said Dan Hodges in *The Daily Telegraph*. Last week alone seemed near-fatal. On Monday, Corbyn responded to the Paris attacks by saying he was "not happy" that police would react to terrorist attacks with a "shoot-to-kill" policy; a day later, he reversed his position. On Wednesday, he put Ken Livingstone, of all people, in charge of the party's defence review; when shadow defence minister Kevan Jones (who has a history of depression) complained, Livingstone told him to seek "psychiatric help". On Thursday, it emerged that shadow chancellor John McDonnell had called for the police to be disarmed and MI5 to be disbanded. But the worst is still to come: on next week's vote over military action in Syria, Corbyn knows his MPs won't support him and seems unwilling to allow a free vote. In his short time in charge, Corbyn has not just made blunders. He has made the sort of blunders that even people who don't care about politics "sit up and take notice".

"There has been such a fundamental breakdown of trust between Corbyn and his MPs that it can only be a matter of time before they move against him," said Rachel Sylvester in *The Times*. The Tories now have a 15-point opinion poll lead, while one poll at the weekend found that only 17% of voters trust Corbyn to keep them safe. "Every day that goes by, more damage is done," said one MP. "It's bad enough that we



A noble vision?

were not trusted on the economy at the election, but if you are not trusted on security and defence that's terminal," said another. There is, it seems, "no more popular sport among Labour MPs than destabilising Corbyn", said Alexander Hilton in *The Independent* – through endless leaks and anonymous briefings. Perhaps these MPs should remind themselves that Corbyn was elected with a landslide win less than three months ago, and that even now 66% of Labour members think

he is doing a good job. Under Blair and his successors, the party gave up any "vision of a better society". Corbyn didn't; and he is "entitled to a fair shot" at leading the party.

The thing is, I don't believe that Corbyn does have a noble vision, said Nick Cohen in *The Spectator*. Some think he's a pacifist, because he opposes intervention in the Middle East. But he isn't. He defended the Russian invasion of Ukraine, by saying the West had provoked Putin; and he has voiced support for the IRA, Hezbollah, and Hamas. Like many on the far-left, he is motivated by "a mistrust bordering on hatred for Western powers", and precious little else. Corbyn is finding out the hard way that "the attitudes needed to establish oneself as an eternally rebellious backbencher" are not much good when you're running the show, said Deborah Orr in *The Guardian*. Given his own record, every vote ought to be a free one; but that would make for a "highly ineffective opposition". Corbyn must be longing for the old days, when "he had only his own conscience to answer to".

Boring but important

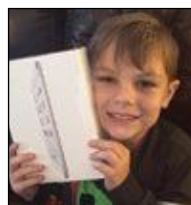
Scientists are trying to solve why so many Emiratis suffer from diabetes, said *The National*. According to the paper, a new doctor is being recruited to launch the three-year project, and will work alongside existing researchers at Imperial College London Diabetes Centre (ICLD) in Abu Dhabi. "There is a high level of obesity, and, beyond that, the level of diabetes in the UAE is very high and we don't really understand why that is," Dr Kevin Murphy, who focuses on endocrinology – an area which examines diseases related to hormones – at Imperial College London told the newspaper. The new scientist will build on the work of the current researchers, looking for biomarkers that predict who is likely to develop a range of serious diseases as a result of diabetes including heart disease, kidney or eye problems. The scientist will be working towards a PhD over the three-year investigation.



Only in the UAE

A UAE dumping ground has been turned into a nature reserve, reported *The National*. Until 2007, the 4.5 square kilometre area in Sharjah was used as a waste landfill site. It gained protected status as the "Waist Nature Reserve" eight years ago and has since "blossomed into a flourishing nature reserve with birds flocking from around the world," the newspaper said. Last week the newest edition to the site opened – the Waist Wetland Centre, a series of air-conditioned glass corridors "which allows visitors to have a closer look at rare birds and other wetland species." The new centre "aims to bring nature closer to people" and "educate them about the importance of protecting natural habitats and ecosystems," said Hana Said Al Swaidi, director of the centre.

Good week for:



Good deeds, after Jack Swanson, a seven-year-old Texan boy, decided to give the money he was saving to buy an iPad – \$20 in pennies – to the Islamic Centre of Pflugerville in Texas, after it was attacked by vandals. The good deed did not go unnoticed – and an attorney who heard about the little boy's decision sent him the iPad he wanted.

A group of Adele impersonators, after the international popstar Adele played a prank on them. Adele joined the group – who thought they were auditioning for an Adele impersonator slot – in disguise. She then sang them her hit song "Make you feel my love" at which point the group realised it was her. "It was beautiful – just thank you! Thank you!" said one impersonator.

Bad week for:

Hundreds of people, who were stranded in Deira in Dubai last Monday evening after the Green Metro line closed down, following a fire near the Deira metro station which lasted for two hours and destroyed a four-storey building. No one is believed to have been hurt in the incident.

Two Dubai university staff, who have been jailed for three years for accepting bribes to alter exam results. A Russian and Lebanese administrator reportedly took bribes to change grades from a 'fail' to a 'pass' in the university records. Both men will be deported following the jail terms.

Poll watch

A new set of graphs illustrate the true extent of collapse in Syria. A series of studies published by Vox have looked at change over seven key areas: Life expectancy in the country dropped from 74.72 years in 2005, to 55.70 years in 2014. Extreme poverty – defined as people living on \$1.25 – has risen from almost none-existent in 2006/2007 (0.3%) to 54% in 2014. Meanwhile, hospitals in the country are falling apart: 58 hospitals are either partially functioning or shut down, leaving just 47 operating with limited medicine. As a result vaccinations are also falling with fear of an outbreak of cholera rising. A generation of Syrians are growing up without education – 80% are now out of school. Meanwhile the gap between needed and provided funding across the country is currently in deficit by around \$100m.

Vox.com

El-Arish, Egypt

Hotel attacked: Militants attacked a hotel in the Sinai region of Egypt last Tuesday with explosives and gunfire killing three people, said The New York Times. The hotel – the Swiss Inn Resort in el-Arish – was “housing judges who were monitoring voting in Egypt’s parliamentary elections”. According to reports, one judge died in the attack. Although no one has claimed responsibility for the incident, militants affiliated to ISIL have carried out many attacks in the area, and last month claimed responsibility for bringing down a Russian plane carrying tourists from the Sinai resort of Sharm el Sheikh, killing all 224 people on board.

Jerusalem, Israel

Teenage girl killed by police: Israeli security forces shot dead a 16-year-old girl, and seriously wounded her 14-year-old cousin after they “lightly injured a pensioner with a pair of scissors”, said The National. According to reports the pair mistook an elderly Palestinian man for an Israeli, and wounded his back. The 14-year-old Norhan Awwad was taken to a Jerusalem hospital with two serious wounds to her stomach. Hadeel Awwad, the 16-year-old who was killed, was from the Qalandiya refugee camp. Her brother, Mahmoud Awwad, died in 2013 reportedly after he was shot and injured during clashes with Israeli troops inside the refugee camp, said Maan News Agency.



Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

GCC summit confirmed: It has been confirmed that the Gulf Cooperation Council states will hold their annual summit in the Saudi Arabian capital on 10 December, said The National. The Syrian crisis and the war in Yemen are expected to be discussed at the meeting. The event will take place three weeks before an international target date to resolve the crisis in Syria. “Major world powers have set 1 January as the date for talks on war-torn Syria to begin, along with a ceasefire. In preparation for the talks, Saudi Arabia has been trying to bring together exile groups and armed factions fighting Syria’s president Bashar al-Assad.”

Manama, Bahrain

Country rejects human rights report: Bahrain has rejected a report by the Human Rights Watch (HRW), which claimed that authorities tortured those detained in the country, reported Gulf News. The HRW report was based on interviews with 14 people who were detained by the Bahraini authorities. “Bahrain is committed to continuing working and cooperating with its international partners to reinforce the legal and legislative development through the independent institutions it has set up to consolidate human rights and prevent any illegal malpractice,” Eisa Al Hammadi, the information and parliament affairs minister, told the newspaper. Bahrain does not need organisations that prepare “one-sided reports”, he added.

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Muslim Brotherhood politician sentenced: A Kuwaiti Muslim Brotherhood politician was sentenced in absentia to five years in jail by the Federal Supreme Court in Abu Dhabi. Mubarak Al Duwailah was accused of insulting leading members of the UAE Royal family, reported 7Days. He was found guilty of insulting HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. According to prosecutors, the Kuwaiti made negative comments about Abu Dhabi’s Crown Prince on Al Majlis TV, Kuwait’s official parliament channel, in December 2014.

Dubai, UAE

Salesman jailed for trying to kill students: A 21-year-old Indian salesman has been sentenced to six months in jail, after trying to kill two students, reported The National. The salesman was part of a gang that attacked an elderly man – and then tried to kill two students who tried to help the old man. The students – both aged 23 – rushed to help the victim but were themselves stabbed and hit with a rock. Both of the men collapsed and had to undergo life-saving surgery.

Samayil, Oman

1,800 prisoners on hunger strike: Omani inmates began a hunger strike last Sunday in response to not being given a Royal pardon. All prisoners are at the high security Central prison in Samayil province. According to Al Shaima Al Raisi, the Muscat representative on the Municipal Council, the inmates “only demanded that they be treated fairly by the authorities as well as be allowed to meet the minister of the Royal court, in order to convey their message”, reported Gulf News.



Dunkirk, France

Migrant camp closed down: An official camp for migrants on the outskirts of Dunkirk has been closed down in an operation involving more than 200 police officers, following repeated outbreaks of violence, and fears that it had become a focal point for British-based people smugglers. The camp, at Tétéghem, was set up by the local mayor seven years ago and had lately been home to about 250 people, mostly from Syria, Iraq and Iran. However, in recent months there have been numerous clashes between migrants and police. "When the camp starts rebelling, it's no longer acceptable," said the mayor, Franck Dherisin. Tétéghem had reportedly become a hub for people traffickers who used top-of-the-range cars licensed in the UK to get migrants across the Channel, charging more than \$1,500 for every crossing.

Lisbon, Portugal

Leftists in power: Portugal has a new socialist prime minister who will now form a governing alliance which – for the first time since the overthrow of the country's dictatorship, in 1974 – will now include communist parties. Socialist leader António Costa, a former mayor of Lisbon, was appointed after mustering enough support from left-wing, green and communist parties to topple the country's minority conservative government. It had been stripped of its majority in elections 11 days earlier. During campaigning, Costa had vowed to "turn the page on austerity" in Portugal, which exited an international bailout programme in 2014. However, he has since sought to allay concerns about his spending plans by promising that his government will run "a socialist programme" that allows for "a sustainable reduction in deficits and debt".

Rome, Italy

"Kafkaesque" trial: Five people – two Italian journalists and three Vatican employees including a priest – have gone on trial charged with leaking and publishing confidential Church documents. The trial, being heard by three non-clerical judges in the sovereign city-state, relates to the publication of two books which depict a Holy See plagued by incompetence, greed and corruption. If convicted under the Vatican's penal code, the five could be sentenced up to eight years. However, the chances are their sentences will be suspended, not least because people convicted of crimes on Vatican territory normally serve their terms in Italian jails – which poses something of a diplomatic problem, as the defendants haven't broken any Italian laws. One of the journalists, Gianluigi Nuzzi, described the trial as "Kafkaesque", and media watchdogs have called for it to be scrapped.



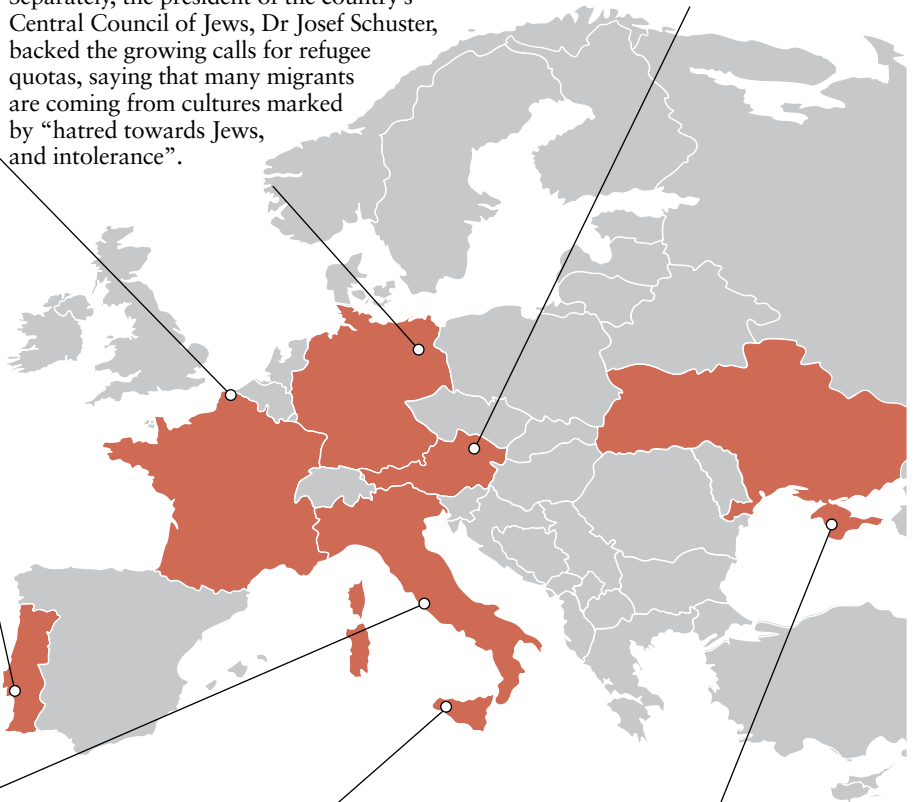
start a new life. Alex Assali (pictured), who had made online criticisms of the Assad regime, fled Damascus in 2007, fearful for his safety. He reportedly shops for and cooks enough food every week to feed 100 rough sleepers: "Give something back to German people," reads a sign on his stall. Separately, the president of the country's Central Council of Jews, Dr Josef Schuster, backed the growing calls for refugee quotas, saying that many migrants are coming from cultures marked by "hatred towards Jews, and intolerance".

Berlin, Germany

A refugee's thank you: A Syrian refugee has been serving hot meals to the homeless of Berlin every Saturday night, to show his gratitude to the country that took him in and enabled him to

St Pölten, Austria

Columbus "cleared": Scientists who have been examining 9,000 skeletons found in excavations at the cathedral square in St Pölten have found evidence of congenital syphilis in the teeth of a child thought to have died around AD1320. This is a dramatic find, say study leaders Fabian Kanz and Karl Großschmidt of MedUni Vienna, as it "clearly refutes" the long-held theory that Christopher Columbus and his crew were responsible for introducing syphilis to Europe from the New World in the 1490s. A year ago, scientists examining a sixth century skeleton found in Croatia claimed that it too had signs of syphilis. However, some experts who query the findings still maintain the Columbus theory remains the most sound.

**Corleone, Italy**

Plot foiled: Police in Sicily say they have foiled a mafia plot to assassinate Italy's interior minister, Angelino Alfano (pictured), after arresting six alleged Cosa Nostra bosses in the town of

Corleone. The six are said to be associates of Salvatore Riina, a mobster jailed in 1993 for gunning down rivals and judges. Wiretap evidence suggests they had picked Alfano because he was a strong supporter of 41-bis, a tough prison regime that deprives inmates of basic amenities such as the use of a phone and receiving parcels, and which is held to have contributed to the weakening of Cosa Nostra.

Simferopol, Crimea

A peninsular in darkness: Most of the two million people living in Crimea were left without reliable power supplies early this week, after the pylons supplying the peninsula with power from the Ukraine mainland were knocked down in an apparent act of sabotage by Ukrainian nationalists and Crimean Tatars – who also prevented any repairs to them. Moscow annexed Crimea from Ukraine in early 2014, but the region remains reliant on Ukraine for supplies of electricity and water. The blackout shut down many businesses and plunged whole streets into darkness. The authorities declared a state of emergency on Sunday, while Monday was made an impromptu public holiday. Crimea has also been hit by water shortages and, since Tatars and Ukrainian nationalists began a border blockade in September, by the disruption of road and rail traffic to and from Crimea.



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Ottawa, Canada

Yoga classes deemed culturally unacceptable: A free yoga class aimed at beginners and disabled students at the University of Ottawa has been cancelled after complaints that the lessons were an unacceptable “cultural appropriation” of an Indian practice. According to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Jennifer Scharf – a yoga practitioner who had been leading free weekly sessions for students for the past seven years – was told that the Ottawa Student Federation had cancelled the class because some students felt “uncomfortable” with the issues involved in borrowing exercises from other cultures. “Many of these cultures are cultures that have experienced oppression, cultural genocide and diasporas due to colonialism and Western supremacy”, explained a student representative. “We need to be mindful of this and how we express ourselves while practising yoga.”

Washington, DC

Clinton cash machine: Bill and Hillary Clinton have between them attracted at least \$3bn to their political campaigns and charitable foundations during their four decades in politics – a figure set to rise by another \$1bn by the time of the presidential election. That’s the finding of an investigation by The Washington Post, which identified 336,000 individuals, unions, companies and foreign governments that have contributed to the Clinton coffers over the years. “Hillary does not like to ask for money,” said a close friend, Susie Tompkins Buell, who, with her husband, has donated almost \$12m. “But she’s got really good people who work for her... and you know it’s sincere.” The newspaper estimates that three generations of the Bush family have raised a mere \$2.4bn.

Recife, Pernambuco state, Brazil

Zika virus spreads: A rare mosquito-borne disease which is believed to cause under-developed brains and skulls (microcephaly) in newborn babies has prompted a public health emergency in Brazil. It has also spread to Colombia and parts of the Caribbean. The outbreak of Zika virus, the symptoms of which are similar to those of dengue fever, was first identified on Easter Island (a Chilean territory in the Pacific Ocean) in February 2014. Symptoms are generally mild, but doctors now suspect the virus is linked to a surge in cases of microcephaly. Brazil declared a nationwide public health emergency earlier this month after the health ministry confirmed almost 400 cases of microcephaly in the Northeast of the country, mostly in Pernambuco state, where the number has shot up from an annual average of 10 to 268.

Buenos Aires, Argentina

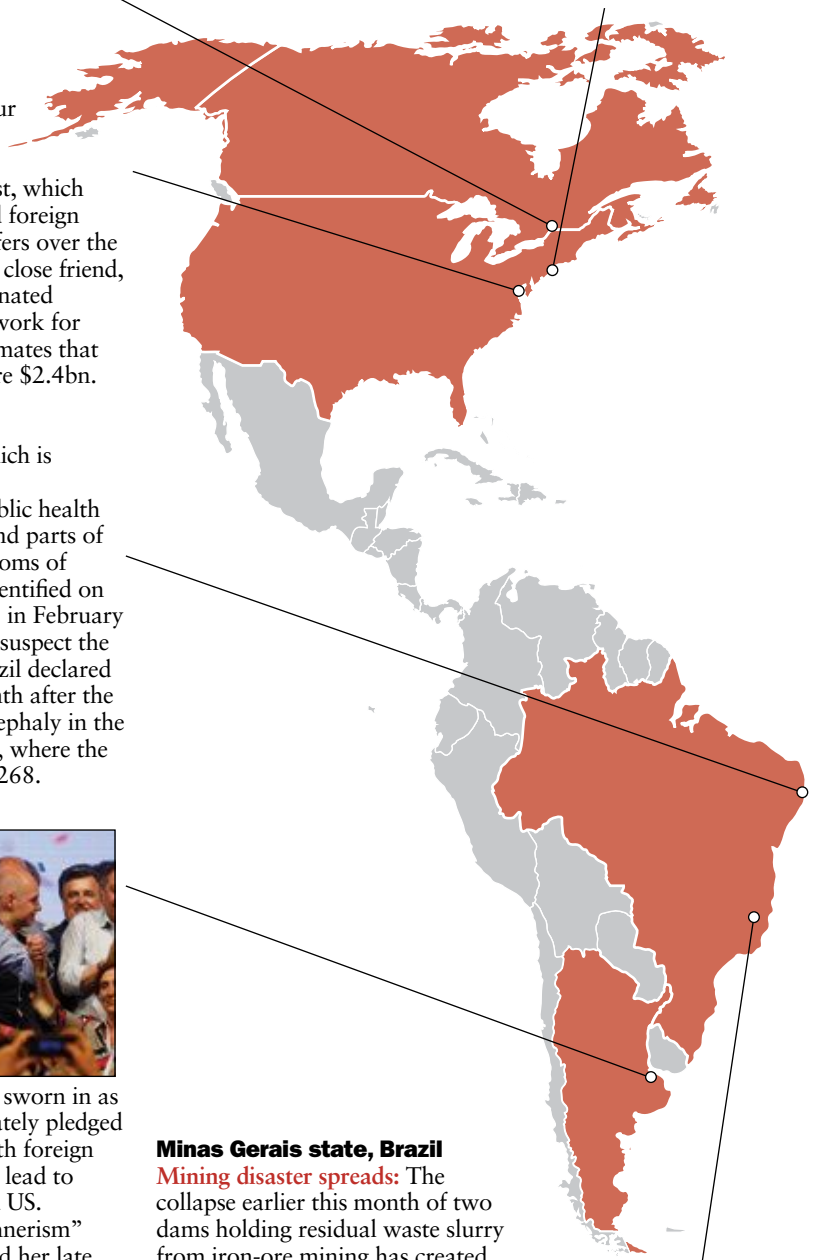
Centre-right president: The conservative, pro-business mayor of Buenos Aires, Mauricio Macri, won a narrow victory in last Sunday’s presidential election run-off, taking 51.4% of the vote versus 48.6% for the “Kirchnerist” candidate Daniel Scioli. Macri (pictured), who will be sworn in as the country’s new president on 10 December, immediately pledged to lift trade restrictions, lower taxes, and negotiate with foreign creditors suing Argentina. His election is also likely to lead to warmer relations with countries including the UK and US.



Macri’s victory marks the end of 12 years of “Kirchnerism” under Cristina Fernández de Kirchner (from 2007) and her late husband and predecessor Néstor. The Kirchners, whose governing style was a mix of left-wing populism and Peronist nationalism, won credit for stabilising a country that was in chaos. But in recent years Argentina has been hurt by slow economic growth and high inflation – and Kirchner’s controversial policies, notably strict currency controls, have left Argentina isolated from global financial markets. Macri’s win is also being seen as a sign that the South America “pink tide” is now beginning to ebb, as leftist governments across the region (from Brazil to Venezuela) can no longer rely on rising commodity prices to boost welfare spending.

**New York, New York**

Pollard freed: A former US navy intelligence analyst who spied for Israel in the 1980s has been freed after 30 years in jail – ending a saga that repeatedly strained relations between the US and one of its closest allies. Jonathan Pollard, 61, had spied for Israel for a year before his arrest in 1985; he was jailed for life in 1987. For many years, Israel denied he had been working for them; however, they granted him citizenship in 1995, and two years later finally conceded he *was* an Israeli spy. Pollard (pictured) now hopes to emigrate to Jerusalem, where his wife lives, but is barred from travelling abroad for five years.

**Minas Gerais state, Brazil**

Mining disaster spreads: The collapse earlier this month of two dams holding residual waste slurry from iron-ore mining has created one of Brazil’s biggest ever environmental disasters. The collapse has sent a thick sludge of toxic residues down the River Doce to the sea, extinguishing vast amounts of plant and animal life along a 400-mile stretch. The original disaster, at Samarco-owned dams in Minas Gerais state on 5 November, sent a tide of sludge crashing into several local villages; 12 people are confirmed dead, with a further 11 still missing. Last weekend, the sludge reached the sea, turning the Doce estuary brown, and is expected to spread along a 5.5-mile stretch of the coastline, threatening areas including the Comboios nature reserve.

Bamako, Mali

Terror attack on hotel: At least two Islamist militants armed with grenades and assault rifles launched a devastating attack on a luxury international hotel in the Malian capital, Bamako, last week, killing at least 19 people. Responsibility was claimed by the jihadi group al-Mourabitoun, an offshoot of al-Qaeda in sub-Saharan Africa, which came to global attention in 2013 after killing 40 people in the Amenas gas plant in Algeria. The group's leader is (or was) Mokhtar Belmokhtar, whom the US thought it had killed in an air strike in Libya earlier this year. The Mali attackers arrived at 7am in a vehicle with diplomatic number plates, before shooting dead two guards and moving from floor to floor of the hotel in search of victims. After an hours-long siege, Malian commandos, backed by US and French forces, stormed the hotel, freeing about 150 hostages.

Some reports suggest the killers allowed Muslims to leave, others that they were seeking out an Air France crew. France, the former colonial power, has played a major military role in helping the Malian government fight the rebels. The air crew survived: the dead include six Malians, six Russians, three Chinese and two Belgians.



Pyongyang, North Korea

Hamlet not to be: North Korea will be one of a tiny handful of countries not to enjoy a production of *Hamlet* by Shakespeare's Globe, which the company has been taking round the world on a marathon tour. North Korea had said the play could be staged, but only if more music, dancing and acrobatics were added. It was impossible to accede to that request, artistic director Dominic Dromgoole told The Times, as "there is a limited amount of music, dancing and acrobatics in *Hamlet*". The production has visited 197 countries over the course of two years: it has been performed in front of 4,000 people in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, and "23 people in a church hall on a Pacific island". The only countries it has been unable to play in, aside from North Korea, have been Libya, Syria and the Central African Republic.

Beijing, China

Resistant bacteria:

Chinese scientists have identified a bacterial mutation – the MCR-1 gene – which makes bacteria resistant to colistin, a super-strong antibiotic prescribed when all other antibiotic treatments have failed. Scientists have long warned that overuse of antibiotics will ultimately render them ineffective. The emergence of this mutated bacterium, found in 21% of pigs and 15% of the raw meat samples tested in the study, means the world is on the cusp of a "post-antibiotic era", says Timothy Walsh, a British professor of medical microbiology who collaborated on the study.



Canberra, Australia

Land sale blocked: The Australian government has blocked the sale to Chinese investors of the world's largest estate of private land, claiming it could have been a threat to security. The Kidman estate, a chain of 11 cattle stations covering an area half the size of Britain, was due to be sold to Genius Link Assets Management of China. But Scott Morrison, Australia's finance minister, said it would be "contrary to Australia's national interest for a foreign person" to acquire the land, part of which lies inside the Woomera Prohibited Area, a weapons-testing zone in South Australia.

Karowe mine, Botswana

Big stone found:

The second-biggest diamond ever unearthed has been discovered at the Karowe mine, owned by Canadian mining firm Lucara, in central Botswana. The 1,111-carat gem (pictured), known as the Karowe AK6, is the largest diamond found for more than a century – it's about the size of a tennis ball, weighing 222g – and is second in size only to the Cullinan diamond, found near Pretoria in 1905, and from which stones were cut to fit into the British Crown Jewels.



Hpakant, Burma

Jade mining disaster: At least 113 people were killed last Saturday in northern Burma when a 60-metre-high mountain of waste rubble at the world's biggest jade mining complex collapsed. Some 100 other people are still unaccounted for. The disaster happened in Hpakant, a town in the Kachin region described by a human rights group as a "dystopian wasteland" governed by corrupt cartels. Dozens of people have been killed or maimed over the past year while picking through waste dumps. Many of those killed last week had been sleeping in some 70 makeshift huts that were crushed by the collapse. Burma's jade mining was worth \$31bn last year, according to a recent report by the rights group Global Witness – the bulk of the wealth going to individuals and companies connected to the country's outgoing military rulers.

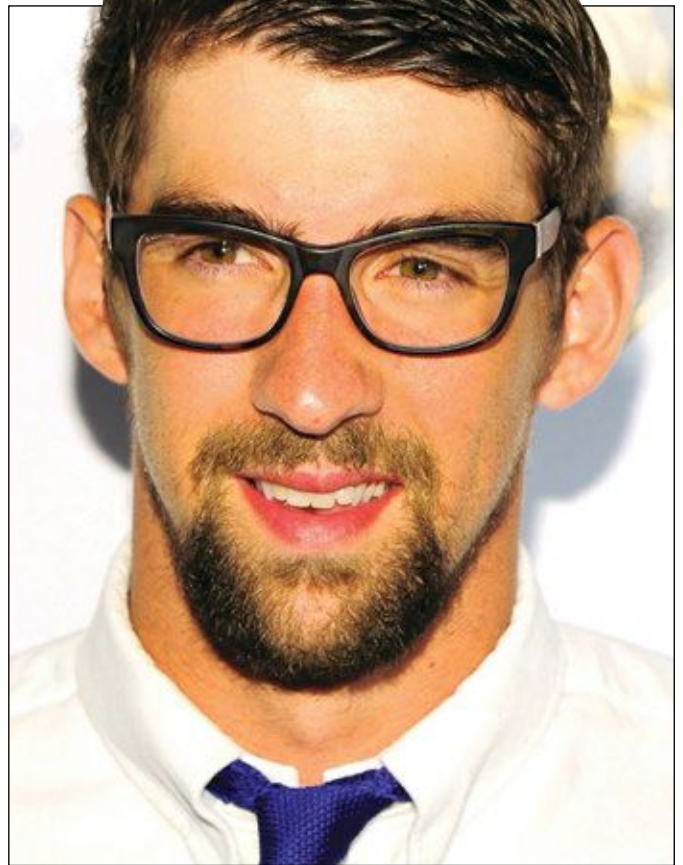
Ford's *Star Wars* cynicism

Harrison Ford is not a sentimental guy, says Anthony Breznican in *Entertainment Weekly*. During the filming of the original *Star Wars* movies in the 1970s, the actor quickly built up a reputation for crankiness, repeatedly saying he wished his beloved character, Han Solo, had been killed off. Back in the role of Solo 30 years on, Ford is just as prickly – as one of his new colleagues recently had the pleasure of discovering on set. The young actor, who is playing an X-Wing pilot, asked Ford for advice on how to make flying spacecraft look realistic. “I said, ‘Just make stuff up!’” says Ford, rolling his eyes. “I mean it’s a movie, man. It’s space. You don’t fly in space the way you do in an atmosphere.” He says he doesn’t feel at all proprietary about his character, and doesn’t care that someone else will play the role in a scheduled 2018 movie about the young Han Solo. “I got other things to worry about. I got shoes at the cobbler that need to get picked up. I got to get a bike fixed.” He appreciates what the *Star Wars* films mean to the fans; just don’t expect him to get

all gooey about the awe and wonder they feel. “It’s not mine, it’s theirs. I just work here. Another day at the office.”

Escaping bohemia

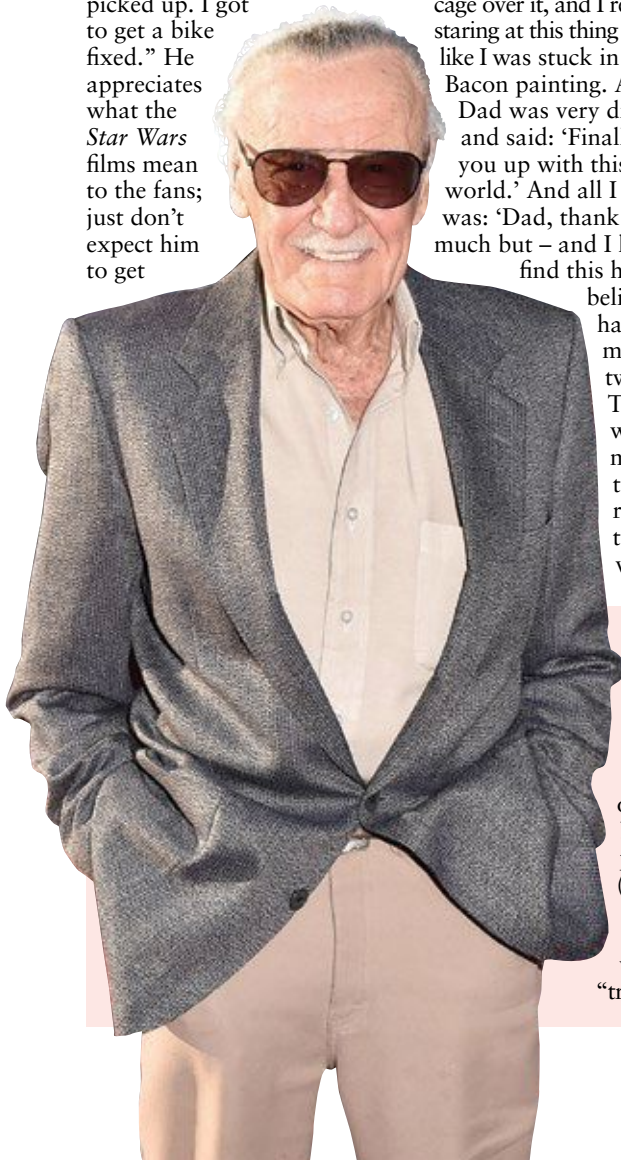
Matthew Spender was something of a disappointment to his father, says Hannah Ellis-Petersen in *The Observer*. Stephen Spender was one of the most famous poets of his generation and famously flamboyant. Matthew, by contrast, became a sculptor of modest fame and led a conventional private life (he met his wife when they were both in their teens, almost half a century ago). Nevertheless, Spender Sr kept trying to entice his son into more bohemian circles. Once he persuaded Francis Bacon to buy one of Matthew’s sculptures, and they all went to Soho’s infamous Colony Room club to celebrate. “All of a sudden here I was on the fringe of a world that I had totally avoided for all these years. I sat there for about half an hour, the chaos just got worse and worse. There was this huge stuffed bird hanging over the room with a cage over it, and I remember staring at this thing and feeling like I was stuck in a Francis Bacon painting. Afterwards Dad was very disappointed and said: ‘Finally I’d set you up with this whole world.’ And all I could reply was: ‘Dad, thank you very much but – and I know you find this hard to believe – I’m happily married, with two children. This is your world, not mine.’ I don’t think he ever really came to terms with it.”

**Phelps' emotional burnout**

Michael Phelps should have quit after the 2008 Beijing Olympics, says Tim Layden in *Sports Illustrated*. The swimmer had just made sporting history, surpassing Mark Spitz’s 36-year record for most gold medals at a single Olympics, with eight. But Phelps felt completely burnt out. “Mentally, I was over,” he says. “But I also knew I couldn’t stop. So I forced myself to do something that I really didn’t want to do, which was continue swimming.” Phelps turned to drinking to relax, and began regularly skipping training sessions. “Why? I didn’t feel like going.” Things came to a head in September 2014, when Phelps was arrested for driving 86mph in a 45-mph zone, and subsequently charged with DUI. Days later, he was sitting in an Arizona rehab clinic watching television, when a reporter announced he had been banned from the 2015 World Championship. “Everybody in the room looked over at me. I stood up, walked over and got a drink of water, sat back down, and said, ‘Yup, that’s me.’” The stint in rehab forced Phelps to confront long-buried feelings about his parents’ divorce and his troubled relationship with his dad. “I wound up uncovering a lot of things about myself that I didn’t want to approach,” says Phelps. “One of them was that for a long time, I saw myself as the athlete that I was, but not as a human being. I look back now, I lived in a bubble for a long time.”

Stan Lee's lucky break

Stan Lee, the 92-year old legendary comic creator, “never really thought of doing comics for a living” when he was a young man in Depression-era New York City. “One day I heard about an opening in a publishing company,” he told *The Guardian*. “I found out the company, among other things, published comics, and that’s where the opening was. So I sort of fell into it. Comics were just another form of entertainment to me, but it got to be more interesting every day.” His first lucky break was a two-page story with a “typically breathless title for comics of the period – *Captain America Foils the Traitor’s Revenge*”. It was the first time that Lee (who was born Stanley Lieber) used his pen name, which he would later change to his legal name and become a key part of his personal branding. It “marked a jumping-off point which has earned him millions of dollars and throngs of fans who swarm him at conventions”. Becoming a hugely recognisable figure with his “trademark glasses, familiar moustache and impish yet avuncular grin”.





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Paying to save the rainforests

Next month's climate-change summit in Paris is expected to agree to a bold, controversial plan to save the world's forests

Why the emphasis on forests?

Because not chopping them down is one of our best hopes for controlling levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and limiting the impact of climate change. Trees are the most efficient and cheapest "carbon-capture" technology ever discovered. Through photosynthesis and respiration, the world's plants and trees have a natural carbon cycle: they pump out around 120 gigatonnes of carbon (GtC) every year – a figure that dwarfs manmade emissions (about 9.9 GtC in 2013) – and then breathe it all in again *plus* another 1.6 GtC. It is estimated that they have scrubbed around 25% of global carbon dioxide emissions from the atmosphere over the past decade. But the problem confronting the world is how to keep forests intact and, ideally, growing, in the face of the huge economic pressure that encourages developing nations with dense forest areas to do just the opposite.

How extensive is the problem of deforestation?

Each year, on balance, the world loses around 13 million hectares of forest (an area equivalent to Costa Rica) through the felling, clearing and burning of trees. This releases huge amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere, amounting to 10%-20% of our total emissions – about the same as the emissions of the entire global transportation industry. At the same time it weakens the planet's natural ability to remove such emissions. How to tackle this double whammy has been preoccupying UN climate negotiators for the past decade; and this summer, the UN's plan to protect the world's forests became the first formally agreed part of the overall climate-change deal expected to be agreed next month in Paris.

What is the idea behind the new plan?

To make living trees as valuable as the trees chopped down and sold as timber. *Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation*, or REDD+, as it is known, is a project designed, in the words of its UN organisers, "to create a financial value for the carbon stored in forests". The aim is to help nations that have historically relied on harvesting forests as a source of income (the global timber trade is worth some \$200bn a year) to earn as much money by leaving them alone.

How is that supposed to work?

To keep things simple, UN negotiators have suggested that, at first, forest owners should be paid \$5 for every tonne of CO₂ emissions they prevent from being released. But that's not an easy thing to work out, or to prove. First, landowners and governments have to show that the forest which is now being saved had previously been earmarked for logging. Then they must work out how much carbon dioxide the proposed deforestation would have released, which itself is subject to debate. Scientists who study the respiration and photosynthesis of forests find the volumes of carbon they release or soak up varies wildly with the species of trees, their density, and the soil underfoot. Finally, governments and the UN must make sure



Loggers sit on felled trees in the Amazon, Peru

the money ends up in the right hands. The most ecologically valuable rainforests are often in poor countries that are dogged by corruption.

And who pays for the schemes?

The UN's environment programme wants REDD+ to be generating \$30bn in "performance-based payments" by 2020; and though some of these will come via international aid, most are likely to be from big corporations seeking carbon credits to allow them to "up" their permitted level of CO₂ emissions. Thus the first REDD+ scheme, launched in southern Kenya in 2009, now produces an income of \$2m a year for a group of 4,800 landowners, who get paid for their carbon offsets by Microsoft, BNP Paribas and other big companies.

And how well is the scheme progressing?

So far, some \$7bn has been pledged to get the idea off the ground, with 49 countries at varying stages of readiness – making carbon inventories; monitoring their forests with satellites; passing land reforms. In 2010, the Brazilian state of Acre created a REDD+ scheme to cover an entire region. But progress has often been agonisingly slow, not least owing to the formidable technical challenges involved in preventing "leakage" – in stopping people claiming carbon offset payments for preserving forests in one area while clearing forests in another. This requires incredibly complex and extensive monitoring and national co-ordination.

What else has held up progress?

REDD+ has also been hurt by the falling price of carbon, which collapsed during the financial crisis from \$30 a tonne to nearer \$7, thereby undermining the incentive to get projects up and running. In addition, many NGOs are bitterly opposed to it, arguing that, as with other "offset" schemes, it enables rich countries to pay poor ones to preserve their habitat, while they continue to pollute, and the poor countries remain undeveloped. Some REDD+ projects have also ended up excluding forest communities from land they have lived off for centuries (see box).

So what are the prospects of it being a success?

REDD+ has evolved considerably since it was first proposed in the UN climate-change talks in 2005. In response to criticism it has expanded (the "+" was added in 2010) to include measures to protect wetlands and even pay for "non-carbon benefits" such as wildlife protection and poverty alleviation. To sceptics, the idea appears unworkable and vulnerable to all kinds of abuse, but to

its supporters (the UK is a major donor) it represents the best and only way to persuade developing countries not to cut down their trees, as Europe and other rich nations did during the 18th and 19th centuries. The next test will come in Paris, at the climate-change summit in December, when all eyes will be on long-term funding for the programme. The cost of administering the system in the first 25 countries has been estimated at around \$500m per year.

The people who lose out

One of the most contentious aspects of REDD+ is its assumption that small-scale agriculture and slash-and-burn cultivation are key drivers of deforestation. But it's an assumption that those who have studied such communities insist is false. The German biologist, Jutta Kill, who studied two high-profile REDD+ projects in the Amazon for the Heinrich Böll Foundation, says that by sticking to this assumption, REDD+ threatens the livelihood of millions of forest-dependent communities, while ignoring the true drivers of deforestation – industrial agriculture and plantations, cattle ranching, commercial logging and mining. The *Guaraqueçaba Climate Action Project* in southern Brazil, an \$18m collaboration between three big US companies (General Motors, American Electric Power, Chevron) and Brazilian charities, was one of the projects Kill studied. Under the rubric of preventing carbon emissions, this scheme has barred villagers from hunting, fishing or tending their forest gardens. An environmental police force, the *Força Verde*, patrols the reserve. As Kill puts it: "People with some of the smallest carbon footprints on earth are being displaced by companies with some of the biggest."

Syria: Solution must not be forced on Syrians

Jihad Al Khazin

Al Hayat

The international community must not impose a solution to the civil conflict in Syria and should leave it to the Syrians themselves to decide on the type of settlement, a well-known Palestinian columnist says. Jihad Al Khazin argues that a series of meetings between the US, Russia and other powers in Vienna to seek a solution to the Syrian crisis were flawed because they were not attended by any Syrian representative. "No delegation from the Syrian regime or opposition



attended the Vienna meetings. The statement issued by 17 countries at the end of those meetings meant that they determined a solution to the Syrian crisis and asked the UN to implement it," the writer says in an article published by the Saudi daily Al Hayat. "Once again, the Syrians are told what to do, yet there was no consensus at those meetings about the fate of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. If there was a consensus, then a solution could be easily reached. With such differences, the implementation of any initiative to reach a settlement will be very difficult, if not impossible. I have a feeling that whether the foreign powers agree or not, the Syrian people will be the victims and we will all pay a heavy price."

It's time the world united against terror

Mohammed Al Hammadi

Alittihad

The absence of united action is giving rise to increasing levels of terrorism, says the editor-in-chief of the UAE daily Alittihad. In a front-page comment on the Paris carnage, Mohammed Al Hammadi argues that the world is not united in fighting terrorism, with some countries sponsoring terror in a region and combating it in another region. He believes that this global confusion and the absence of a common concept on terror have only created "a fertile ground" for radicals and terrorists, and this has made it very difficult to defeat them and put an end to the cycle of violence. Hammadi also believes that terrorism gained momentum because of unresolved regional conflicts, including the Palestinian problem and civil wars in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Libya and Somalia. "Terrorism has many forms, it has no religion or country, eliminating terrorism will not be possible unless the entire world is united against this malignant tumour. Unfortunately, however, the world is not united. There are countries that justify terrorism in one place and condemn it in another place. There should be unity on ways to fight terrorism and on its definition. Without this unity, the war on terror will not be won," he says.

Iran: The divide between rich and poor

Dakheel Al Hajri

Alanba

Iran is one of the richest countries in the world as it controls nearly 10% of the world's proven oil reserves and it has the world's second largest gas reserves. But "latest figures show that more than 40% of the Iranian people are under the poverty line although their country is one of the richest nations, yet its leaders are among the wealthiest people in the world", says Dakheel Al Hajri, a Kuwaiti columnist. In an article published in the Kuwaiti Arabic language daily Alanba, he cites



SOURCE: INSTAGRAM.COM

Forbes figures showing Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei controls a wealth of nearly \$95 billion while that of the other theological elite is estimated to be \$1,300 billion. "When the Shah of Iran was overthrown in the Islamic revolution, the new regime declared that the revolution was triggered by poverty and hunger. The Shah, however, owned less than one per cent of what the *mullahs* own now," he says. "Unfortunately, some people who live amongst us in the Gulf countries are still defending this Iranian regime, which has largely failed in managing the resources of the country and at the same time deprived the people."

Saudi Arabia: Religious police must change

Aziza Al Manei

Okaz

Saudi Arabia's feared religious police force – the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – must be restructured, so that its responsibilities are better defined, a Saudi female columnist says. "There have been increasing calls for the Commission to be dismantled, perhaps some believe the Commission is not playing an effective role in preventing ethical and religious offences," she says. She argues that Commission members have often worked alongside police divisions to crack down on drugs, prostitution and liquor. "These offences are within the remit of other police divisions and not the Commission. This interference with police work could be one of the main reasons for the calls to dismantle the Commission. I believe that there is a need to revise the Commission's work by leaving those offences to the other police divisions and dedicating its time and efforts to guiding people in the right way and promoting good behaviour. This means its functions would be better defined and there would be no interference in other parts of the law."

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The emptiness of Facebook empathy

Gracy Olmstead

TheAmericanConservative.com

In the immediate aftermath of the Paris attacks, millions of Facebook users put red, white, and blue picture filters on their homepages, while Twitter users tweeted out such hashtags as #PrayforParis and #JeSuisParis. But do these well-meaning signs of solidarity really accomplish anything? asked Gracy Olmstead. “Online social media campaigns generally make us feel good about ourselves, without forcing us beyond our spheres of comfort.” Twitter and Facebook provide a comforting

illusion that you’ve taken an important stand, which may be counterproductive, because it removes the need to actually do something. Remember #BringBackOurGirls, the hashtag created in the wake of Boko Haram’s kidnapping of hundreds of teenagers in Nigeria? By the time the next hashtag campaign came along, the stolen girls were all but forgotten. Think of the agony facing Parisians whose friends and loved ones were slaughtered in the massacre. “If we are to be honest, while we can try our best to empathise, both emotional and physical distance will keep us apart.” Let’s hope the terrified and grieving citizens of Paris “experience true and immediate compassion in the days to come” – not just the superficial kind found in 140 characters.



Clinton is exploiting 9/11 memory

Timothy P. Carney

Washington Examiner

The terrorist attacks of 11 September, 2001, have been used to justify all sorts of “unsavoury” things, says Timothy Carney: the Iraq invasion, spying on US citizens, drone strikes, even ethanol subsidies. But Hillary Clinton has taken the “9/11 exploitation game” to a new level by using the attacks to explain her “coziness” with big business. During the recent Democratic debate, her rival, Bernie Sanders, brought up the fact that she was the top recipient of Wall Street money. In response, Clinton implied that the finance industry had funded her generously out of gratitude for the work she did as the senator from New York to “rebuild” lower Manhattan. That’s “as demonstrably false as it is cynical”. Wall Street was bankrolling Clinton well before 9/11: when she was sworn into the Senate eight months earlier, she had already “taken more campaign money from Wall Street than any of her fellow 99 senators in their last election”. The banks have been her key donors ever since – a relationship she has nurtured by consistently supporting policies that help the finance industry. “No doubt some denizens of Wall Street appreciate her post-9/11 recovery work.” But what they appreciate more is Hillary’s “efforts to funnel taxpayer money and special favours to the banks”.

Is Paris a game changer for the 2016 election?

Daniel W. Drezner

The Washington Post

Will the Paris attacks affect America’s 2016 presidential election? Some have suggested that the massacre could prove a “game changer”, says Daniel Drezner, but I doubt it. The evidence from previous elections is that individual events abroad – and indeed, foreign policy issues as a whole – rarely have a lasting impact on White House races. To judge whether things have changed, and whether voters are now looking for candidates with foreign policy acumen, just keep an eye on the progress of Ben Carson. For if any candidate has shown

themselves to be entirely unqualified in this department, it’s him. The Republican candidate’s recent foreign policy statements have been either “incoherent” or – as with his claim that China was fighting in Syria – “flat-out wrong”. Even his top advisers are questioning his grasp of the issue. Two of them admitted to a reporter the other day that Carson was struggling to master the subject, despite intense tutoring. “Nobody has been able to sit down with him and have him get one iota of intelligent information about the Middle East,” despaired one. If Carson continues to slide in the polls, that might suggest US voters do care about foreign policy after all. But if he reverses his fall, it would be definitive proof that they don’t.



Police less willing to beat citizens

Eric L. Adams

The New York Times

Violent crime is reportedly on the rise in US cities, and many people – including the director of the FBI – think they know why. It’s because increased scrutiny of the police, in the wake of a series of abuse scandals, has made officers less willing, and able, to engage in front-line enforcement. As a former New York City police captain, says Eric Adams, I share these people’s concern about crime increases, but I don’t think scrutiny of police behaviour is the problem. It’s “part of the solution”. I know how cops treated uncooperative civilians back in the so-called good old days. We called it giving people an “attitude adjustment” – beating, painfully handcuffing and sometimes even shooting those who gave us a hard time. These brutal tactics were an “inextricable part of the policing culture”. But that was before nearly every citizen was armed with a mobile phone camera. Many cops now feel a furious sense of betrayal about their actions being “second guessed” by a public that often gained from the old-school tactics. But it’s no good railing against change. Officers need to accept that scrutiny is inevitable – and “will lead to better policing”. Departments must screen out belligerent cowboys and embrace the use of body cameras. “The era of darkness is over.”

POLAND

EU-bashing leaders are just getting started

Der Tagesspiegel

Poland's new right-wing government was expected to adopt a "disturbingly" anti-European line, and so it has proved, says Christoph von Marschall. The populist PiS (Law and Justice) party seems determined to use its new majority to "bash" its European partners round the head. The new defence minister, Antoni Macierewicz, notorious for spouting crude anti-Semitic sentiments, is at it again, citing that clumsy forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* as a "highly interesting explanation of the world situation", thereby demonstrating his total unsuitability for public office. The culture minister, Piotr Glinski, has lost no time in outlining plans to turn the state media into a propaganda outlet, promoting "patriotic values" for his party. The European minister Konrad Szymanski used the Paris attacks as a pretext for refusing to accept the 6,000 Syrian refugees the previous government had committed to, while foreign minister Witold Waszczykowski floated the fantastic notion of turning young male Syrian refugees into a "liberation army" and sending them back to fight ISIL. Some suggest that this lot will learn to hold their tongues once they gain experience in office. Alas, the more likely explanation is that they couldn't care less what the rest of Europe thinks of them.

SPAIN

When junk rains down from space

El País

"Houston, we have a problem," said Milagros Perez Oliva. Debris is raining down on Spain from outer space, and pretty soon somebody is going to get hurt. Over the past few weeks, three bizarre-looking, man-made objects have landed in southern Spain. The first two, in the Murcia region, were dense black roundish things a full metre in diameter, and bomb squads were called to investigate them. The third, found in a farmer's field in neighbouring Valencia, was a long metal piece that could have come from some kind of aircraft or spacecraft. We know there are millions of fragments of space junk orbiting the planet – including remnants of old satellites, rockets, and past missions. But for years we naïvely believed that any chunk that fell out of orbit would simply burn up and disintegrate when it hit the atmosphere and therefore "pose no danger to Earthlings". Alas, that theory has now been proved wrong. But how can we protect ourselves? It's going to be "tough to devise a garbage collection system to go sweep in space" – and expensive. In any case, Spain is not responsible for most of the mess cluttering the sky, even if for some reason we are the landing site. The solution will have to be international.



SOURCE: SPANISH INTERIOR MINISTRY

UNITED KINGDOM

Apps are helping terrorists

The Daily Telegraph

If we're in a war against terrorism, says Clare Foges, the "frontline is online". It's through emails and messaging apps that fanatics plan their outrages – and, thanks to the help of Western tech companies, they can now do so with complete security. Ever since Edward Snowden's revelations about government surveillance, the likes of Google, Apple and Facebook "have been falling over themselves to offer products that no government can break into". Messaging apps such as Telegram, for instance, on which ISIL claimed credit for the Paris attacks, are totally encrypted. ISIL now even has "a 24-hour tech helpdesk" to advise would-be terrorists on the best secret apps. Tech companies have brushed off the concerns of intelligence agencies, insisting that the privacy of its users is sacrosanct and that opening up a "back door" for officials to access data would leave products vulnerable to hacking. But if the will was there, the geniuses of Silicon Valley would surely be able to devise a system that could both "keep the good guy's data secure and keep the bad guys in plain sight". What will it take to make these people wake up?

ITALY

Could the mafia keep out ISIL?

thelocal.it

Could the presence of the Mafia in Southern Italy protect parts of the country from ISIL? asks an editorial in *The Local*. Recently, an unnamed ex-spy suggested in *Panorama* magazine that this could be the case: "The presence of the criminal organisations which control some territory will not allow terrorists to permeate their zones." It is a sad fact that the Mafia controls some areas of Italy. Its power and reach "must not be underestimated. Mafia bosses are known for being ruthless". They are "not restricted by the legal and moral difficulties democratic governments face when trying to fight terrorism". That's not to say the Italian government should co-operate with the Mafia in the fight against ISIL – "There are more cons than pros, regardless of the effectiveness, we must not become blind because of fear." Let's not forget that "organised crime in Italy has killed many more people than terrorism across all of Europe". Aligning with the Mafia would play into ISIL's hand – they "want us to lose our rationality. If we want freedom we cannot support organised crime. We have fought for certain rights and liberties, collaborating with the Mafia would be disrespectful to all those who lost their lives fighting organised crime".



Colombia: Time to forgive terrorists?

Last week's slaughter in Paris has reminded Colombians of their own epic struggle against terror, says Gustavo Alvarez Gardeazábal in *Excelsio*. The mayhem caused by the Marxist narco-terror group FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) over the past half a century has left 220,000 dead and millions more suffering from the traumas of violence, abduction and displacement. A fierce military onslaught ordered by president Alvaro Uribe brought it to its knees, and now his successor Juan Manuel Santos is negotiating a peace deal. But it includes an amnesty for people who carried out assassinations, massacres and kidnappings, a bitter pill for Colombians to swallow. Uribe is furious about Santos talking to the guerrillas, instead of fighting on until all their leaders are either dead or in jail. And he speaks for many. Those "crazies" in Paris have reminded us all just how hard it is to forgive terrorist crimes.



FARC militants: The country's troubled past

That's why there was outcry this month when the men's magazine *SoHo* featured on its cover a nude clinch between an ex-FARC guerrilla and an ex-intelligence agent, says Matthias Rüb in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. A "clumsy" allusion to Annie Leibovitz's photo of Yoko Ono embracing John Lennon, it was

no doubt meant to symbolise forgiveness. But feelings are too divided on the issue of reconciliation for this sort of gimmick. Yet reconciliation does seem to be progressing, says Tjerk Brühwiller in *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. A watershed was reached when President Santos shook hands with the guerrilla chief Rodrigo Londoño in Cuba in September. Four out of six points have been agreed, including the thorny issue of punishment: rank and file fighters will be amnestied; leaders can avoid jail if they fully confess their crimes. And it could work: there have been false dawns before, but this time FARC seems sincere about giving up the struggle, and both sides are united by a fear of failure.

Even so, Santos faces a "daunting logistical process" getting the rebels to actually hand over their arms to their former enemies, says Nick Miroff in *Washington Post*. They could instead just bury stashes, ready to resume fighting if the deal goes sour. And some rebels may just drop out of rehabilitation programmes and hire themselves out to the drug cartels rushing to take over territory vacated by FARC. But the government insists it has learnt how to stop ex-fighters returning to violence. Let's hope so. This is Colombia's best chance of peace for a generation.

AFGHANISTAN

The West shouldn't give up on Afghans

The Indian Express

The West shouldn't give up on Afghanistan, says Praveen Swami. It's become fashionable for intellectuals to rail at the idea that this "mosaic of warring tribes" could ever be transformed into a Western-style liberal democracy. The pessimism has worsened with the Asia Foundation's latest annual survey showing that Afghans are rapidly losing faith in their government. But there's another side. Witness the breathtaking images that came from Kabul last week: tens of thousands of people marching to protest the Taliban's brutal beheading of seven Persian-speaking Hazaras, including two women and a child. The mass demos, led by youth groups on social media, were the largest Afghanistan has ever seen. Afghans aren't tamely submitting to the prospect of the Taliban retaking power; better education and fresh economic opportunities are creating a hunger for a strong, accountable state; the emergence of a national media has "breathed life into a genuinely pan-Afghan identity". But these gains will be for nought if the West pulls out altogether, abandoning Afghans to their fate. "The idea that Afghanistan is a lost cause isn't just untrue: some would call it a racist libel."

AUSTRALIA

Removing the stigma of adoption

The Sydney Morning Herald

Adoption is practically taboo in Australia, and children are suffering because of the stigma, said Jeremy Sammut. Of the 43,000 children living in foster homes or other care last year, just 89 were adopted. Authorities are reluctant to permanently sever ties to biological parents, even if they're abusive. When kids are removed from the family home, they are often sent back again and again, in a "cycle of maltreatment and instability". This fetishisation of the biological family stems from Australia's dark history of forced adoptions. Decades ago, Aboriginal children and children born to single mothers were wrenched from their parents, placed in new families, and denied access to their origins. Those forced placements did untold harm, and convinced many Australians "that adoption is an intrinsically harmful practice". That's simply false, as shown by the positive experiences of adoptees in many other countries. Modern-day open adoption, in which a child is allowed to learn about and, when appropriate, visit the birth parents is a far cry from the secretive practices of the past. It is "designed to ensure that adopted children do not struggle with their identity". Australia's children in care deserve a family – and it needn't be the one they were born into.

NIGERIA

Why is Nigeria failing against Boko Haram?

Premium Times

Why has Nigeria's army proved so incapable of preventing a "ragtag bunch of untrained fanatics" conquering a slice of Nigeria the size of Belgium? Why couldn't it stand up to Boko Haram, the Islamist militant group that has killed 17,000 people since its attacks began in 2009, and displaced a further 2.3 million? Because barely a quarter of the sum provided to equip the army was actually used, says Femi Akinfolarin: the rest, an astonishing \$2.41bn, "magically disappeared". That, at any rate, is the conclusion of an investigation launched by the new president, Muhammadu Buhari, into the fantastic level of looting carried out by the outgoing administration of Goodluck Jonathan. Jonathan's glamorous confidante, former oil minister Diezani Alison-Madueke, was arrested in London last month for stealing billions of dollars through scams and kickbacks. Now Jonathan's national security adviser, Sambo Dasuki, has been charged with making vast deposits in foreign banks of the money allocated for jet fighters and helicopters in the fight against Boko Haram. Like Alison-Madueke, Dasuki is furiously protesting his innocence – and he will have his day in court. But the revelations can only further convince us that the politicians are Nigeria's "true villains".

What the scientists are saying...

Is your breakfast carcinogenic?

If you're toasting bread, do it as lightly as possible – and beware the crispy roast potato. That is the latest advice from the health experts in response to ongoing concerns about acrylamide: a known carcinogen produced when starchy foods, like potatoes and bread, are subject to temperatures in excess of 120°C. First identified in 2002, acrylamide is created when sugars and an amino acid that naturally occur in those foods interact at high temperatures. It can be found in roasted, baked or fried foods, including crackers and crisps. But according to the UK's Food Standard Agency research, levels of acrylamide in these foods vary widely, depending on how long they're cooked for. In roast potatoes, for instance, the FSA recorded 490 micrograms of acrylamide per kg in the longest-cooked batch – 80 times more than in the palest. In toast, there was 19 times more acrylamide in the blackest slices than in the lightest. It's not yet clear what a safe level of acrylamide might be – however, the European Commission is considering introducing maximum levels.

Coffee drinkers live longer

Good news for those who can't face the day without their coffee: a major new study has found that people who drink between one and five cups a day are slightly less likely to die prematurely than those who never touch the stuff. Researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health followed three cohorts consisting of more than 200,000 health professionals in the US for between 20 and 30 years. During that period, 19,500 women and 12,400 men died. Once the prevalence of smokers among coffee drinkers had been accounted for, drinking coffee was associated with a lower risk of death



Carcinogenic?

from cardiovascular disease, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and suicide. Consuming one or two cups a day was linked with an 8% reduced risk of dying from any cause during the course of the study, rising to 12% among those who drank five cups. This remained the case whether their brew was caffeinated or decaffeinated. Although there's no proof of a causal link, the researchers speculate that antioxidant compounds in coffee – lignans and chlorogenic acid – could have a beneficial effect. However, other experts were quick to stress that the key to long life is not downing endless cups of coffee, but living an all-round healthy lifestyle.

Lower blood pressure is better

Current blood pressure standards are too high, and aggressively treating people now considered healthy can prevent more heart attacks and strokes and save lives, a new US study has concluded. Under existing clinical guidelines, healthy adults should have a systolic blood pressure of 140 or lower. In a

study of 9,361 adults 50 or older, researchers randomly assigned participants to receive either standard hypertension treatment or more intensive therapy aimed at lowering their systolic pressure to 120 or below. Over the course of the three-year trial, the people treated more aggressively experienced 25% fewer heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular events. Deaths among those patients also dropped by 43%. "The general message here seems to be that lower seems to be better," Paul Whelton from the US National Institutes of Health told Time.com. Aggressive treatment does raise the chances of side effects, but Whelton says that "the benefits of the lower blood pressure far outweigh the potential for risk".

Birds that forgo food for love

Great tits feel such a strong urge to be with their mates that they'll go hungry rather than leave them. For a study at Oxford University, researchers rigged up a system in a nearby wood that prevented mating pairs from feeding together. The birds were radio-tagged, and if both tried to enter the same feeder, the source of seed was shut off. The researchers found that, if locked out of a partner's feeder, the thwarted tit wouldn't fly off in search of other food sources but rather waited, "forlorn and famished", says The Times. Over time, however, the birds worked out that the feeder didn't lock until a second or two after a feeding bird had left. So a banished bird could swoop in and get some food as its partner flew off. Josh Firth, the PhD student who led the project, said that although the birds' decision might seem "sub-optimal" in the short term, it could be shaped "around the long-term benefits of maintaining their key relationships" – for instance, reproducing.

Climate change, disease and migration



blood pressure. Since then, owing to rising temperatures, humidity and urbanisation, the disease (fatal in 2.5% of cases) has spread to 100 countries, including Spain and Italy. Farrar believes we are also being complacent about the impact of climate change on staple crops. For instance, were the Mekong Delta in Vietnam to be inundated by sea water, one of the world's biggest rice-growing areas would be lost, leading to widespread malnutrition and a migration crisis that would dwarf Europe's current situation. "We have all been troubled by dreadful scenes of migration from Syria," he told The Observer, in advance of the Paris climate-change summit. "But imagine that on a scale 10 times worse as people flee Dhaka or Jakarta or the Mekong."

We know about sea levels rising and habitat loss – but climate change could have other similarly alarming but far less publicised consequences, a leading scientist has warned. Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust, says that health authorities should be stressing the likelihood of serious infectious diseases spreading as the world warms up. For instance, until the 1970s, only seven countries had seen severe outbreaks of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne viral disease that causes fever, headaches, acute joint pain and, in some cases, dangerous drops in

Africa's obesity problem

Africa's first academic centre for the study of obesity has opened in Johannesburg, reflecting growing concern about the spread of obesity across the continent, reports The Guardian. Last year, South Africa was branded the "fattest nation in sub-Saharan Africa" when a report found that 26.8% of its population was obese, but other countries, including the Seychelles, Botswana and Namibia, are not far behind – raising fears of a major health crisis. Experts say the problem is largely the result of a move away from traditional vegetable and grain-based diets, and the adoption of more sedentary lifestyles – both of which are consequences of economic development. "We can't stop economic growth, and we wouldn't want to, but [the challenge is to] put other things in place to counter its ill effects," said Shane Norris, head of the new African Centre for Obesity Prevention in Soweto.

3D printing: The world's biggest technological leap?

World-leading 3D design experts gathered in Brisbane, Australia, last week at the 3D printing Expo 'Beyond 3D Printing: The Evolving Digital Landscape', said The Brisbane Times. From printable clothes to "superlight bikes" and a guitar "that can change with every print" the expo was one of the most exciting exhibits of 3D technology yet. It's true, said Jennifer Loy in the same publication. The most revolutionary aspect of 3D printing highlighted at the expo was "definitely the fact that every single print can be different". For example with hearing aids, "you can print 1,000 hearing aids together but each one can be customised to an individual person".



3D Printing: Helping brain surgeons

Yes, and it's this type of technology which is becoming a part of everyday life, said Nick Jaynes on Mashable.com. Local Motors, the lead producers in 3D cars, recently announced that its new LM3D series will be manufactured in a "microfactory" currently under construction in Tennessee in the US. The dune-like buggy will become a world-first when it becomes available to the mass market in early 2017. "Ignoring the vast number of future promises, it's fairly significant." Although international car manufacturers like Audi are 3D printing "things like 1:2-scale race car replicas for fun", Local Motors will be the first-ever company in the world to offer at least partially, "3D-printed cars for sale to the public".

There are plenty of examples of "exciting" 3D technology, said Andreas Bastian on techcrunch.com. "But this excitement has largely outpaced innovation and development in the field." The fact of the matter is, "almost everything that is printed today has been designed (either consciously or not) for another fabrication process". Not just that, the current machines are prototypes not specialists: "They are designed for the lowest common denominator of performance. This results in machines that can do many things, but that can do very few things well."

Actually, 3D-printing is already doing some pretty complicated, innovative stuff said Clive Thompson in Wired. It's currently helping paediatric neurosurgeons operate on children with tumours and blood vessel complications. Before surgery, "hospital techs are using 3D standard imaging to print a high-resolution copy of the child's brain, tumour and all". It means that doctor can rehearse surgery "as many times as they want", cutting surgery time by as much as 12%. "In similar ways, 3D tech could become useful for other areas. There are "all sorts of delightful and curious uses for 3D data". For example, "courts could print forensic evidence that juries could handle. You could render a sales report not as a chart but as a manipulable sculpture. 3D printers aren't just factories for products – they're factories for thought."

Innovation of the week



You don't have to ditch your favourite wristwatch to get in on the smartwatch trend, said

Nathan Olivarez-Giles on WSJ.com. Chronos, "a slim, stainless steel disk that sticks to the underside of any watch," can turn just about any old-fashioned timepiece into a basic smartwatch, complete with phone notifications and fitness tracking. The Chronos disc, which is small and thin enough to fit about 80% of watches on the market, glows or vibrates to alert wearers to phone calls, text messages and app notifications on their smartphones. Different light and vibration patterns can be programmed for different alerts – say, "purple for an Uber ride arriving". It also can track steps and distance travelled. Chronos is available now for pre-order at \$99, rising to \$129 once it ships in spring 2016.

Bytes: What's new in tech

Get to know 'TensorFlow'

Google just made an announcement that "will send ripples throughout the technology industry for years to come", said Will Oremus in Slate.com. The company has built a new learning system for machines, called TensorFlow, and is giving it away to developers. Machine-learning software may sound like "gobbledygook to the average person", but it's "increasingly at the core of Google's technology", allowing computers to recognise patterns, make predictions, and "learn from mistakes". Google's speech-recognition tools, photo search and auto-reply Gmail already use TensorFlow. "As with many things Google does, this is at once altruistic and self-serving." Giving away TensorFlow will allow other companies to implement cutting-edge machine-learning algorithms in their own products, but it also will help cement Google's brand of machine learning as the industry standard.

Your phone's secret superpower



"Your smartphone could contribute to cancer research while you sleep," said Amy Wang on Qz.com. Cancer researchers in Australia have developed a mobile app that harnesses a smartphone's processing power while it's not in use. The DreamLab app downloads

genetic sequencing data from Australia's Garvan Institute of Medical Research, crunches the numbers, and then sends the results back to the institute, all while the phone owner is asleep. Vodafone Australia, which helped develop the app, doesn't charge users for the data and says that if even 1,000 people use the app, "cancer puzzles would be solved 30 times faster".

Why auto-play videos are everywhere



Blame Facebook for making auto-play videos ubiquitous, said Mike Shields in The Wall Street Journal. Publishers are following the social media giant's lead by filling their homepages with videos that start playing without a click. Some 88% of videos on 330 top websites now play automatically, according to MediaRadar, an advertising analytics firm. Media companies have traditionally shied away from auto-play videos, but many now assume that because web users have gotten used to seeing them in their Facebook newsfeeds, hostility to them has waned. Video has become a large and lucrative business for Facebook, with video ads pulling in prices up to "20 times higher than prices for display ads". The social network pulls in a "jaw-dropping" eight billion video views a day, up from four billion a day in April.

Pick of the week's Gossip

Warren Beatty's reputation as a lothario is confirmed in a new memoir by his former lover, **Carly Simon**. The singer – whose biggest hit, 'You're So Vain', was partly inspired by **Beatty** (pictured in 1966) – recalls how they met after she had performed at the Troubadour nightclub in LA. **Beatty** walked into her dressing room unannounced, closed the door, stared at her and asked "Can I see you?" **Simon** was bowled over, and a month later they started seeing each other. He was, she writes, "such a professional" that he seemed



to have "just created a brand new manual" on being intimate. **Beatty** left at 5.30 am, saying he had an early film shoot. That morning, **Simon** went to see her therapist, and raved about her "superman" boyfriend. "In the circumstances," interrupted her therapist, "I can't withhold this... You are not my first patient of the day who was with **Warren Beatty** last night."

Lamar Odom still doesn't know why he is in the hospital, and is having to learn how to feed himself and speak again, estranged wife **Khloe Kardashian** has revealed. The former NBA star lapsed into a coma in October after allegedly overdosing on illicit substance and alcohol in Las Vegas. **Odom** knows he had a brain injury, "but we can't tell him how that brain injury was caused," said **Kardashian**, "because that will set him back." The 36-year-old **Odom** is still "really confused," she added. "Sometimes he knows who the president is and his birthday, and sometimes he thinks he's 26, and I say, 'I bet you wish you were 26!'"

UK: Scandal at the heart of Westminster

"Alleged bullying, blackmail and crude ambition" – the scandal in the Tory party "has got it all", said Michael White in *The Guardian*. Last week, Mark Clarke, a leading figure in the Conservative youth wing, was expelled from the party, following a extraordinary series of allegations (which he denies). Clarke, 38 – dubbed the "Tatler Tory" after the magazine tipped him as a future cabinet minister – ran the party's successful Road Trip 2015 operation during the election, bussing young Tory volunteers into marginal constituencies, said Claire Duffin in the *Daily Mail*. But he has since been accused of preying on young female activists on the campaign trail. It is also claimed that he encouraged young campaigners to seduce Tory MPs, so he could gain "leverage" over them. One woman said that he acted like a "sleazy gangmaster", compiling "dirt" on his targets. Among them was allegedly the minister Robert Halfon, who admitted last week to having cheated on his partner with a Tory campaigner. More serious still, though, is the accusation that Clarke bullied a young activist to the point of suicide,



Clarke: Mentioned in suicide note

said Josh Boswell and James Lyons in *The Sunday Times*. In August, Elliot Johnson, 21, complained to Conservative central office that he was being harassed. Clarke got wind of this, and is said to have confronted Johnson in a bar, pinning him to a chair and ordering the younger man not to "betray" him. Soon after, on September 15, Johnson took his own life on a railway line in Bedfordshire; he left a letter "naming Clarke as a bully".

Since the scandal broke, the lurid claims have snowballed, said *The Times*. Clarke,

apparently inspired by the power-hungry hero of the thriller *House of Cards*, is said to have leaked a video of a rival engaging in an illicit act; to have filmed another activist taking illegal substances, with a view to blackmail; and to have dislocated a woman's jaw he was intimate with while in a pub. It's a disturbing case, said Paul Goodman on *Conservative Home*. Official complaints were made about Clarke as far back as 2010, when his behaviour as the Tory candidate for Tooting raised serious concerns. Conservative central office has some explaining to do.

SOURCE: FACEBOOK.COM

US election: Last Republicans standing?

"The marquee fight of the Republican race has finally arrived," said Tal Kopan and Theodore Schleifer in *CNN.com*. With Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz increasingly looking like the party's most viable candidates, the two senators "are taking the gloves off over one of the most explosive debates among conservatives:



Cruz (l) and Rubio

immigration". At the heart of the battle is Rubio's central role in the so-called Gang of Eight, the bipartisan group of senators who tried and failed to enact comprehensive immigration reform in 2013. Cruz criticised Rubio last week for trying "to jam this amnesty down the American people's throats". Rubio responded by noting that at the time, Cruz actually proposed "legalising people who were here illegally" by expanding the number of temporary visas and green cards. Ironically, Cruz's proposals were designed to divide Republican support and thus "kill the bill", said Brian Beutler in *NewRepublic.com*. But having wooed anti-establishment conservatives with his "supposed orthodoxy and candour", he may find it awkward to explain that he was just gaming the Washington system all along.

Rubio's involvement in the Gang of Eight was "a colossal political and policy misjudgement", said Rich Lowry in *Politico.com*. While he

eventually abandoned his own handiwork and declared the bill a mistake, "there is, understandably, lingering distrust" among conservatives. Rubio needs to offer some detailed promises to secure the border – "promises that would exact a real political price if he ever backtracked on them".

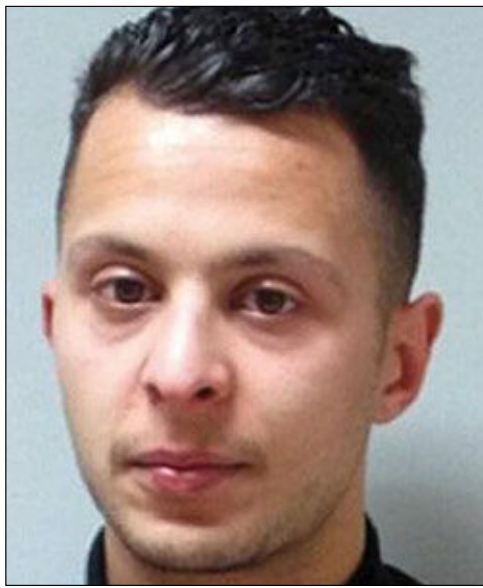
Even that wouldn't be

enough, said Matt Lewis in *TheDailyBeast.com*. The only way Rubio can prevent this issue from sinking him in the primaries is to "frame the discussion" on immigration on his own terms. How? By addressing the matter in a big speech, like JFK did on his Catholic faith, and Barack Obama did on the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Democrats must be loving this, said Peter Beinart, also in *TheDailyBeast.com*. On the one side there's Rubio, who's been trying to "show younger, poorer, newer, less white Americans that the GOP gives a damn about them". On the other side there's Cruz, "a man who combines Sarah Palin's worldview, Richard Nixon's commitment to fair play, and Al Gore's folksy charm." Rubio is clearly the candidate Democrats most fear – yet he's the one being forced to take increasingly extreme positions that will be an albatross in the general election. "Somewhere, a woman in a pantsuit is laughing."

Brussels lockdown: Most wanted man

At 9.20 last Friday night, exactly a week after 129 people were killed in the worst ever terrorist atrocity in France, Paris erupted into sound. It wasn't weeping, said Luke Harding and Kim Wilsher in *The Guardian*, but "cheering, whistling, whooping and clapping". And music: reggae pumped from a yellow van outside the Bataclan theatre, where 89 people were murdered. The pavement shone with candles, as the crowd sang the Marseilles. "It was a defiant affirmation of eternal values: noise, joy, light." Yet there is an "underlying edginess" to the city, said *The Sunday*



"The eighth attacker" is still loose

Times. One gathering to honour the dead ended in panic, when firecrackers were mistaken for gunshots. And on Wednesday, residents of the Saint Denis suburb of Paris woke to the sound of real gunfire, as police began a ferocious seven-hour siege in which the apparent mastermind of the Paris attacks was killed.

Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a Belgian jihadist of Moroccan descent, had been linked to four previous terrorist plots in Europe, including the foiled attack on a French train this summer. The focus of many ISIL propaganda videos, he was thought to be in Syria, said *The Daily*

Telegraph. But after the Bataclan massacre, police found a phone that had been thrown into a nearby dustbin by one of the killers. It led them to the flat in

Saint Denis where Abaaoud was hiding with his female cousin, Hasna Ait Boulahcen, and several other ISIL members. When police tried to storm the flat, the terrorists fought back with grenades and Kalashnikovs. At one point Ait Boulahcen appeared at the window shouting "Help me, help me". Some time later there was a huge explosion, and her head flew through the window and landed on the other side of the street. It is thought she was standing next to a suicide bomber when he blew himself up. By the time the siege was over, parts of the building were rubble; three suspects had given themselves up, and the corpses of the rest were so mangled that Abaaoud could only be identified by traces of skin from his fingertips.

The manhunt isn't over, said John Lichfield in *The Independent*. Salah Abdeslam, the "eighth attacker", is now the most wanted man in Europe. A petty criminal from Molenbeek – the Brussels suburb where Abaaoud, too, grew up – Abdeslam is known to have driven one of the cars used to drop the terrorists around Paris on the night of the attacks. At 10pm, he dropped

his brother Ibrahim near the Bataclan. Ibrahim – an unlikely terrorist, who had previously run a bar in Brussels – drank a beer at the Comptoir Voltaire, and then blew himself up. Salah, by contrast, appears to have had second thoughts about his savage mission. At 10.30, while the Bataclan massacre was underway, he telephoned two friends in Brussels and asked them to drive the 200 miles to rescue him. They obliged, and he crossed back into Belgium without any trouble from the

border guards. Five days later, Salah apparently approached another friend in Brussels and said he regretted the attacks, which had "gone too far". But he added that he dared not hand himself over to the police, because ISIL might take revenge on his family. Meanwhile, Brussels has been in lockdown, said BBC Online. Schools have been closed; parts of the city's transport system suspended. Belgium's prime minister put the country on the highest state of alert, amid warnings of imminent atrocities being planned. New anti-terror laws are being rushed through, including plans to electronically tag all converts to extremism. It's a bit late to slam the stable

"Anti-terror laws are being rushed through, including plans to electronically tag all converts to extremism"

door, said Tuen Voeten on Politico. For years, the Belgian establishment turned a blind eye to the "dangerous undercurrent of radicalism" in our country. Part of the problem is "messy governance": Belgium is a country of six governments, Brussels a city with 19 mayors. An incompetent, politically-correct ruling class has been reluctant to intervene in areas such as Molenbeek, where the combination of 30% unemployment and an immigrant monoculture (80% of Molenbeek's residents are of Moroccan origin) has "created the perfect breeding ground for potential terrorists".

Europe's porous borders don't help, said *The Economist*. The Schengen agreement allows terrorists to move freely between member states – a situation that has been exacerbated by the chaos of the migrant crisis. At least six of the terrorists behind the Paris attacks had trained in Syria and then slipped back into Europe; one is known to have been rescued from a leaky raft off the Greek island of Leros, along with a group of Syrian refugees. France has now joined a growing list of EU countries taking back control of their borders. The drawbridges are going up.

Wit & Wisdom

"The sad truth is that most evil is done by people who never make up their minds to be good or evil."

Hannah Arendt, quoted in *The Observer*

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing is worth war is much worse."

John Stuart Mill, quoted on *Spiked*

"I enjoy convalescence. It is the part that makes illness worthwhile."

George Bernard Shaw, quoted in *The Times*

"There is no sarcasm on earth as finely calibrated as that of the British official in his use of the word 'madam'."

Emma Brockes in *The Guardian*

"Normal is just a cycle on the washing machine."

Whoopi Goldberg, quoted in *HuffingtonPost.com*

"Familiarity is a magician that is cruel to beauty, but kind to ugliness."

Victorian novelist Marie Louise Ramé, quoted in *The Guardian*

"Saving is a fine thing. Especially when your parents have done it for you."

Winston Churchill, quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*

"The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it."

Terry Pratchett, quoted on *BBC America*

Statistic of the week

Of all the people who died in terrorist attacks last year, 51% were killed by two organisations: Boko Haram and ISIL.

The Times

It takes 60-80 intelligence agents to monitor one terrorist suspect around the clock.

The Economist

Rugby union: England's new sharp-tongued Australian coach

"Here comes Mr Confrontation," said Owen Slot in *The Times*. The Australian Eddie Jones has a reputation for being sharp-tongued: he left Saracens in 2009 after an acrimonious falling-out with the board. And now he has been appointed England's new head coach, making him the first foreigner to coach the national side. But his sharp tongue could prove a boon – at a time when England are still reeling from their World Cup humiliation, they need a coach who will shake them up. Jones is good at that: in 2003, he took Australia to the World Cup final; four years later, he was assistant coach to the South Africa side that won the tournament. This year, as Japan's coach, he masterminded the side's "giant-killing" World Cup – including a win over South Africa that has gone down as the greatest upset in rugby history. Indeed, Jones is particularly good at working with underachievers, which should stand him in good stead for the role – for what are England if not underachievers? Whatever happens, one thing's for sure. "The Eddie Jones years will be neither calm nor quiet."

Jones certainly "polarises opinion", said Dean Ryan in *The Guardian*. And that's partly because, for all his success, his career has been marred by some "difficult-to-ignore slumps". In 2005, he was "booted out" by Australia for losing eight of his final



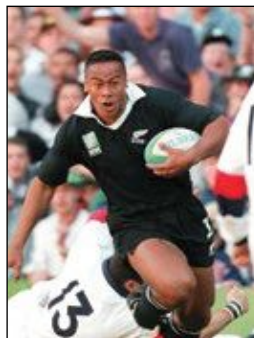
Eddie Jones: "Polarises opinion"

nine matches; he left Queensland Reds after finishing bottom of the Super Rugby table. But there's no doubting Jones' commitment, said Paul Rees in the same paper. He is a "rugbyholic" whose life is consumed by the sport. Said to need "even less sleep than Margaret Thatcher", he enjoys poring over reports and videos "into the small hours", and is famous for his command of detail. Jones is also a very flexible coach, said Eddie Butler in *The Observer*. He doesn't have a favourite playing style; instead, he adapts himself to each team. When he coached the Springboks, they "kicked the leather off the ball"; his Japan side, by contrast, played a "ruck and go" game that required precise passing.

What England now need is a style of their own, said Clive Woodward in the *Daily Mail*. Under Lancaster, they lacked any coherent philosophy. And if the World Cup showed us anything, it's that the stand-out teams – New Zealand, Australia and Argentina – were the ones that wove their national identity "into an effective game plan". That's what Jones did at Japan: he tapped into "the psyches of his players' unique background" and hit upon something "very Japanese". And he has the experience to do the same here – even if he isn't English. Perhaps it will take an Australian to "remind us what English rugby is all about".

Jonah Lomu: The New Zealander who transformed his sport

Only a few athletes can claim to have reinvented their sports, said Owen Slot in *The Times*. Muhammad Ali transformed boxing; Diego Maradona "pulled off feats" that football had never seen before. And if any rugby player deserves a place in such company, it's New Zealand's Jonah Lomu, who died last week at the age of 40. When he caught the world's attention as a 20-year-old, at the 1995 World Cup, the wing "seemed to be playing a different game from everyone else". At 6ft 5in tall and weighing more than 18 stone, Lomu was enormous – yet he could run 100 metres in staggering speeds of under 11 seconds. His combination of force, speed and grace changed "our understanding of what a wing should be". Lomu's greatest performance came against England, in the tournament's semi-final, said Stuart Barnes in the same paper. Just 70 seconds into the game, he scored his first try; he added another three



Lomu: "Remarkable"

before the final whistle. To this day, that remains "the most stunning individual display in the history of international rugby".

Lomu scored even more tries at the 1999 World Cup, said Brian Moore in *The Daily Telegraph*. That gave him a combined tally of 15, setting a World Cup record that still stands. Such success is all the more amazing for occurring while Lomu was suffering from nephrotic syndrome. He was diagnosed with the rare kidney disorder at the age of 21; by 2003, he was undergoing dialysis, and the following year he had a kidney transplant. But even then he refused to stop playing, and he only retired in 2007. It shows what a "remarkable human being" he was, said

Robert Kitson in *The Guardian*. Growing up in a gritty suburb of Auckland, he was surrounded by gang violence. Yet he remained a "gentle, generous soul". Rugby was "fortunate to have him".

The fastest-ever century in Dubai

It was one of the most extraordinary innings in one-day cricket history, said John Westerby in *The Times*. In the fourth ODI against Pakistan, in Dubai, Jos Buttler scored the fastest ever century by an England batsman. He reached his hundred in 46 balls – shaving an incredible 15 balls off his own record – and finished on an unbeaten 116. The innings was "all the more remarkable" for coming after a spell of dismal form. Earlier this month, Buttler was even dropped from England's Test team, yet his performance last Friday was a reminder of his considerable talents. He hit the ball in every direction, helping England to a total of 355 – their highest overseas in a one-day game. That proved to be enough to win the



Buttler: New record

match, giving them a 3-1 series victory. On any other day, Jason Roy would have been the star, said Vic Marks in *The Guardian*. Opening the batting for England, he scored 102, hitting his maiden international century. Compared to Buttler's, his hundred was "unremarkable" – but it has cemented his status as England's one-day opener. The series win was a "big step" for England, said Jonathan Liew in *The Daily Telegraph*. Just eight months ago, they suffered an embarrassing World Cup exit in the group stage. But since then they have beaten

New Zealand and narrowly lost to world champions Australia. This is an ambitious, likeable side, "filled with match-winners". Buttler's innings "epitomised that".

Sporting headlines

Tennis Novak Djokovic beat Roger Federer in straight sets to win a record fourth straight ATP World Tour Finals title.

Golf Rory McIlroy won the World Tour Championship in Dubai to retain his Race to Dubai title.

Football Leicester City beat Newcastle 3-0 to top the table. Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy scored for the tenth successive match to equal the Premier League record for consecutive goals. Liverpool beat Man City 4-1. West Brom beat Arsenal 2-1.

Rugby union In the European Rugby Champions Cup, Wasps beat Toulon 32-6.

JORDAN SPIETH



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ARTS

Review of reviews: Books

Book of the week

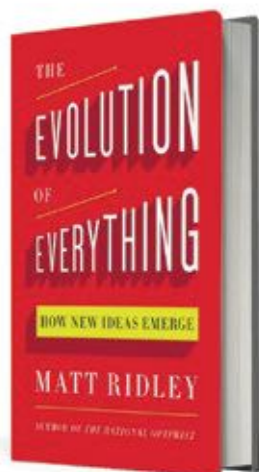
The Evolution of Everything: How New Ideas Emerge

by Matt Ridley

Harper, \$29

There's "something profoundly democratic and egalitarian" about the central idea put forward in this book, said Michael Shermer in *The Wall Street Journal*. Science writer Matt Ridley, a Conservative member of Britain's House of Lords and the former American editor of *The Economist*, rejects the popular notion that leaders drive human progress and must answer the call when challenges arise. In a volume that rates as his "best and most important work to date", Ridley argues that most changes in the fields of human endeavour emerge from below, in processes that mimic natural evolutionary change. Like a flock of geese, a pack of cyclists will move with a single mind without any external direction, and society at large functions similarly, he says. Only because our minds crave patterns do we rush to ascribe change to top-down planning and control.

Ridley is right to celebrate the achievements of civilisation that have come about through collective tinkering, said Mark Buchanan in *Nature*. "We defeated the dark of night", for example, not by waiting for the arrival of Thomas Edison's lightbulb but by taming



fire, developing metallurgy, and achieving countless other technological advances without any thought of how Edison's breakthrough would harness them all. Unfortunately, Ridley's libertarian political views "often intrude on his arguments", inspiring him to litter his book with cranky complaints about big government and the liberal faith in social engineering. In his world, change that emerges from unfettered human activity is always good, and top-down regulation is always harmful, said Graham Lawton in *New Scientist*. His "highly readable, invariably interesting, but ultimately maddening" book allows no room for counterevidence.

At his most preposterous, Ridley commends the Mexican mafia for being more effective than any government power in bringing order to prisons in California, said Peter Forbes in *The Independent*. He blames 2008's global financial collapse not on banks but on excessive regulation, and he speculates that universal health care would occur naturally if insurance companies were left to their own devices. Such excesses "might make you feel you don't need to read this book". But there you'd be wrong. Before he goes off the deep end, Ridley "makes a persuasive case that top-down command in many areas of life is inefficient, smothering, and often tyrannical". A reader "needs to keep a cool head" to see it, but "there are the seeds here of a revolution – or rather, a bottom-up evolution".

Novel of the week

The Japanese Lover

by Isabel Allende

Atria, \$28

Isabel Allende has proven again to be "an incomparable storyteller", said Laura Albritton in *The Miami Herald*. Opening a novel by the Chilean-American author is "like running into a beloved friend", because her characters are always captivating and their depths expertly excavated. When we meet Alma Belasco, a wealthy 81-year-old California matriarch, she still carries a torch for her childhood sweetheart, Ichimei Fukuda – a Japanese-American who was once taken away to a World War II internment camp. But that and other historic injustices that Allende weaves in "come across more like stage backdrops than shapers of a human soul", said Pamela Miller in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Her potentially potent story often feels "oversugared with sentimentality". To me, there's "nothing cloying" about it, said Ron Charles in *The Washington Post*. Allende works in quick strokes. Better yet, she's "an author who understands that beneath our poses of literary sophistication, most of us want a rich, engaging story".

Also of interest... when people go separate ways

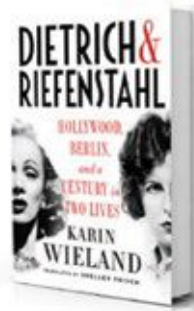
Dietrich & Riefenstahl

by Karin Wieland

Liveright, \$35

Marlene Dietrich and Leni Riefenstahl make fascinating counterparts, said Michael Sragow in *The Washington Post*. This "agile" dual biography presents them as embodying Weimar Germany's dream of a new 20th-century woman. Audacious in their careers and their love lives, the actress

and the filmmaker "diverged on the crucial moral decision of their day" – whether to back Hitler or denounce him. Karin Wieland gets a few facts wrong, but her approach "generates piercing insights about ambition, ego, and the repercussions of a momentous choice".



It Ended Badly

by Jennifer Wright

Holt, \$21

"Breaking up is sad business", and the 13 couples profiled in this "odd but intriguing" historical survey made things even worse, said Dawn Fallik in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The author, a New York Observer writer, "often comes across as that friend who thinks

everything she says is hilarious, when – not so much". But she's assembled rich detail about nasty breakups such as Nero's with Poppaea and Eddie Fisher's with Liz Taylor. This book "could be a quick, interesting read on a dreary Saturday afternoon".



Twain & Stanley Enter Paradise

by Oscar Hijuelos

Grand Central, \$28

The late Oscar Hijuelos "spins a great tale" in the novel that turned out to be his last, said Jason Sheehan on NPR.org. His goal is to bring alive the decades-long friendship that arose between Mark Twain and the explorer Henry Morton Stanley, and the Pulitzer Prize

winner "pulls it off with barely a hitch". His attempt to stitch together fictionalised letters, journals and manuscripts hampers narrative flow, but "there's a kind of gorgeous magic to the parallel lives he's charting", lives whose different paths tested the friends' early bond.



Best books... Kevin Barry

Irish writer Kevin Barry, author of the novel *City of Bohane*, won a new honour this week when his latest book garnered Britain's Goldsmiths Prize. *Beatlebone* imagines an alternative fate for John Lennon, transporting him to a remote Irish island.



Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë (Dover, \$4.50). I was home sick from school, aged 10, and this was lying around the house. I remember being lifted from my skin by it. I was taken from an Irish suburb in the early 1980s and set down on a wind-blasted, 19th-century Yorkshire moor, and into the maelstrom of one of literature's great doomed romances. It taught me that a book could truly be a vehicle.

Everything That Rises Must Converge by Flannery O'Connor (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$16). I risk the wrath of O'Connorians everywhere when I suggest that there's a particular time in life when

her short stories have the most charge or reverb, and it's in one's late teens or early 20s. That was when I read this collection, and I was awed by the dense emotional humidity of the world it depicted.

Underworld by Don DeLillo (Scribner, \$20). In the '90s, this offered many young writers a view of what the novel could achieve. It had scope, fun, drama, and pitch-perfect dialogue, but above all it had sentences – sentences of special gleam and precision. It still sits close to my desk as a reminder and a goad.

Dubliners by James Joyce (Dover, \$4). I read *Dubliners* dutifully in my early 20s

and thought, 'Sure, fine, these are excellent stories, well-made, yadda yadda.' When I returned to them 15 years later, I began to sense the true depths within, depths I could only find after living more of my life.

2666 by Roberto Bolaño (Picador, \$22). Just when we thought the novel had no place left to go, here came this splintered masterpiece, a paranoid odyssey told in 900 writhing pages filled with a new, rich, glamorous prose. Bolaño, who died a year before the book's 2004 publication, was a great, maverick, maniacal talent. We'll be considering his influence for generations.

Don't miss...

GIG OF THE WEEK: Ariana Grande Live

3 December, du Arena, Abu Dhabi, UAE



Grammy-nominated international popstar Ariana Grande will perform at du Arena in Abu Dhabi as part of the UAE's 44th National Day celebrations, reported Emirates 24/7. According to the entertainment site, the set list will include hits from Grande's most recent number one album, *My Everything*, with tracks including "One Last Time", "Break Free", and her five-time platinum hit "Problem" that featured Iggy Azalea. Through the collaboration Grande broke several records, including 'youngest woman to debut with over 400K sold in a week'. It also became the fifth 'highest digital download for a female artist' and became number one in 85 countries and dominated global charts. Tickets to the show start at \$68 and go up to around \$4,000 for VIP Suites. Y1 Access race ticket holders can receive a 20% discount on general admission tickets. Tickets are also available from Virgin Megastores.

Best of rest

National Day Celebrations

30 November-4 December, Dubai, UAE, dubaicalendar.ae

The second of December marks 44 years since the sheikdoms of the UAE gained independence from the British, and decided to form a union. To celebrate, the Dubai government "has planned a number of activities" throughout the week, reported the Dubai Calendar. Why not check out the UAE National Day parade in Downtown, or watch the boat parade in Dubai Marina? Sports fans can join the 37km cycle parade or walk the emirates seven kilometre challenge. For more information, visit the Dubai calendar website.

Martyrs' Day

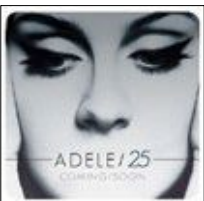
30 November, UAE



The first Martyrs' Day will be held across the UAE on 30 November, with people being given the opportunity "to express their pride about the sacrifices made by Emirati soldiers", said The Gulf Today. Events will begin at 8am, with the lowering of the UAE flag across the country. A minute's silence will be held across the country at 11.30am. Following the minute of silence, the UAE flag will be flown again and the UAE national anthem will be played.

New albums

Adele
25 (XL)



Anyone wanting Adele's new album to pack as much punch as her previous hits, "should skip past the wobbly-lower-lipped piano ballads and the one kiss-off and head straight to track seven 'River Lea'", said The Guardian. Most of 25 is "mindful about using the correct knife and fork" but "River Lea" has the signs of a hit, finding "universal specifics in the granular detail".

Kishi Bashi

String Quartet Live! (Joyful Noise)



This live album offers eight tracks from Kishi Bashi's first two albums, reported Marcy Donelson in All Music Review. "The more intimate songs, such as "Manchester" and "Bittersweet Genesis for Him and Her" gain in live vocals and "riveting string performances", while covers such as "Taking Heads" fits perfectly – "more elegant and stripped down than the original".

Dubai International Film Festival kicks off its 12th year

This year's DIFF promises an exciting range of local and international talent

The stellar line-up for the 12th annual Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) has been released, said Digital Production ME. This year's festival – which runs from 9-16 December – will include 55 world premieres, 46 MENA premieres, and 17 from the Gulf region. Stars expected to attend are BAFTA award-winning Jake Gyllenhaal, Melanie Griffith and star of *Slumdog Millionaire*, Dev Patel. The 12th annual film festival comes at a time where people need art more than ever, said Chairman Abdulhamid Juma. In the current climate, “nothing can help us understand the madness of the world better than the arts”.

Arab filmmakers will be at the forefront of this year's DIFF, being nowhere more apparent than in the Muhr Gulf Short Category, said Gulf News. In this category, filmmakers will “attempt the challenging task of telling a story in the most succinct manner”. And women are leading the way: Saudi Arabian director Nada Al Mojadedi will show her film *Zaina's Cake*, “a tale of a young college graduate with aspirations of starting her own cake business, with a father that objects to her ambitions”. Meanwhile, fellow Saudi Arabian director Hind Al Fahhad will show her short *Peddlers*, a film that “depicts the daily challenges faced by a group of women, who are shunned and unable to establish themselves in the local souq”. Aside from the array of local films that will be screened, attendees will get to see footage from the new *Star Trek*



Room: “An unsettling story of survival”

film, partially shot in the UAE, along with two of the “strongest Oscar contenders for 2016”, said Shivani Pandya, managing director of DIFF. One of those films is *Room*, based on Emma Donoghue's 2010 critically-acclaimed novel of the same name. *Room* “is told from the perspective of Jack, a five-year-old boy who knows nothing outside the small room he and his mother have lived in for his whole life. “It's an unsettling story of survival that's life affirming without being manipulative,” said The Guardian. Director Lenny Abrahamson and his crew work impressively within the claustrophobic reimits of the ‘room’: “the space created opens and closes like an accordion, one that expands into a virtual suite depending on the camera angles and lenses”, said The New York Times.

Another highly anticipated debut is *The Big Short* – a film about the 2008 economic crisis, in which “the crippling housing crash never looked so... funny”, said Vanity Fair. “The system is rigged, everyone's corrupt and the only sure thing is to bet on other people's stupidity. Not a happy outlook on life and yet, somehow, *The Big Short*, is still an engaging, energetic and (at times) very funny movie”.

For information about tickets for the festival visit the official DIFF website (www.diff.ae)

Güeros

Dir: Alonso Ruizpalacios
1hr 48mins (15+)

*Smartly humorous
Mexican art-house*

★★★

Set against the backdrop of a series of student strikes in Mexico City in the 1990s, this Spanish-language art-house movie from first-time director Alonso Ruizpalacios has a very jerky stop-start plot, said Godfrey Cheshire on Rogerebert.com. Teen tearaway Tomás (Sebastián Aguirre) goes to the big city to hang out with his politically apathetic big brother (Tenoch Huerta). That's about it – yet with smart turns by the young leads and gorgeous black-and-white photography, it is nonetheless bewitching. Its strength is its wryly humorous dialogue, said Boyd van Hoeij in The Hollywood Reporter, as when the two brothers muse on the derivation of the phrase “continental breakfast”. Yet, overall the film lacks narrative coherence. There's “more style than substance here”, conceded Peter Bradshaw in The Guardian. But as the brothers embark on a quixotic quest through Mexico City in search of a folk singer who once made Bob Dylan cry, the film brims with flair and humour. It's “a very smart debut”.



By the Sea

Dir: Angelina Jolie Pitt
2hr 12mins (PG13)

*A beautiful couple nurse
their wounds in style*

★★★

Angelina Jolie Pitt's third movie as a director offers at least one genuine pleasure – the chance to watch “impossibly beautiful” people fight and fool around in “an impossibly beautiful place”, said Rebecca Keegan in the Los Angeles Times. The writer-director and her husband, Brad Pitt, play a glamorous 1970s couple who've decamped to the Mediterranean coast to overcome a rough patch, and the viewer never forgets that the actors are two of the world's biggest screen stars – which only adds to the allure. *By the Sea* is “far from a perfect work”, said Richard Brody on NewYorker.com. But it is composed and self-aware, and it dares to put on screen “wild emotions that, by their nature, defy control”. When Jolie Pitt's loner discovers a peephole that offers views of the hot young honeymooners next door, the director in her is slyly sending up audience desire, yet she doesn't sacrifice the sense of doom she's established. The dialogue is “either banal or portentous”, and the movie's run time “feels like eight weeks”, said Ty Burr in The Boston Globe. Still, “at its flawed, frustrating best, *By the Sea* enters a place of intimacy and vulnerability that most movies never get near”.



The actress who quit her career for Cary Grant

Betsy Drake
1923–2015

For Betsy Drake, being Cary Grant's wife was a full-time profession. After wedding the Hollywood star, she gave up a promising acting career so that she could cook his meals – always with the meat well done, always accompanied by a glass of dry white – and greet him each day at breakfast with a new poem. But Grant, 21 years her senior and twice divorced, was never satisfied and had affairs behind his wife's back. They divorced in 1962 after 13 years together – the longest of Grant's four marriages. "Cary swallowed my life," she said. "I lost myself trying to please him."



Drake pictured with Grant

Born in France to wealthy American expats, Drake spent her early years in Paris, where her parents embraced the Roaring Twenties, said The Washington Post. The stock market crash of 1929 ended the fun and the marriage, and "Drake was shuffled among relatives along the East Coast". She became a model and actress, and in 1947 was spotted performing on the London stage by Grant, then 45. "By chance, they soon met aboard the *Queen Mary* on a voyage to New York," and embarked on a romance. The couple would appear together in two films, 1948's *Every Girl*

Should Be Married – "they were, the following year" – and 1952's *Room for One More*, said The New York Times.

Drake pulled back from Hollywood to focus on her husband, and in 1956 travelled to Spain to join him on the set of *The Pride and the Passion*. "It was there she realised her husband was falling in love with his co-star Sophia Loren," said The Daily Telegraph. Furious, she sailed back to New York aboard "the ill-fated Italian liner

Andrea Doria", which sank off the coast of Nantucket. Drake survived, but was deeply traumatised. "Things went from bad to worse" in 1958, when Loren was cast opposite Grant in *Houseboat* – for which Drake had written an early script. Seeking to ease her emotional turmoil, she began seeing a therapist, who administered LSD – then a legal drug that Grant would also embrace. She credited LSD with giving her the confidence to leave Grant and pursue a career in psychotherapy. "The freedom to eat rare meat [and] drink a glass of red," she said, "made up for the agony of divorce".

The Jewish man who found his ex-Nazi twin

Jack Yufe
1933–2015

Jack Yufe and his identical twin brother, Oskar, couldn't have had more different upbringings. After they were separated as babies, Jack was raised as a Jew on the Caribbean island of Trinidad, while Oskar was brought up as a strict Catholic in Nazi Germany. Yet when the brothers met as adults, they recognised many traits in each other. Both men loved spicy food, flushed the toilet before using it, and even shared a favourite practical joke: sneaking up on strangers and surprising them with a loud sneeze. "They were great examples of how twins, despite different environments, end up being very much alike," said psychologist Nancy Segal, who studied the pair.



Jack Yufe (l) with his twin

The twins were born in Trinidad to a Romanian-Jewish immigrant and a German woman he'd fallen in love with "on the voyage over", said The New York Times. Six months after the twins' birth, their mother ended the relationship and returned to Germany with Oskar, who kept his Jewish heritage secret and joined the Hitler Youth at 12 as an act of survival. After the

war, Jack moved to Israel, where he served in the Israeli Navy and married an American. Encouraged by his wife, Ona, he arranged to reunite with Oskar in Europe in 1954. Their first meeting did not go well, said the Los Angeles Times. The brothers, then 21, were disturbed by their similarities – they had "the same neat mustaches and receding hairlines", and wore matching glasses and sports jackets – and "went 25 years without seeing each other again".

Jack later moved to California, where he "ran a clothing and appliance store for many years", said The Washington Post. In the 1970s, Ona read about a groundbreaking University of Minnesota study on twins reared apart, and convinced Jack and Oskar to participate. The study revealed that, as well as their shared taste in food and pranks, the brothers had similar gaits, and spoke at exactly the same rate in their respective languages. The brothers got to know each other better through the two-decade study, though their relationship never lost its prickly edge. Oskar's Nazi past, however, was never an issue. "Children have no say in what they are taught," said Jack. "If we had been switched, I would have taken Oskar's place for sure."

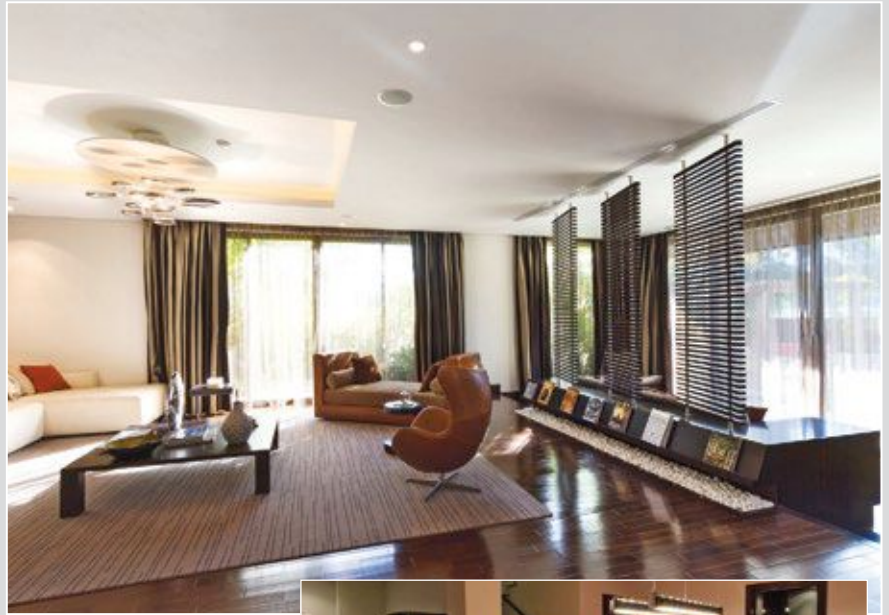
The custom-car king who invented the Batmobile

George Barris
1925–2015

It took 15 days and \$15,000 for George Barris

to create the first Batmobile. Approached by producers of the *Batman* TV show in 1965, the custom-car designer stripped down a 1955 Ford Lincoln Futura, repainting it midnight black with red pinstripes, and adding a "bullet-proof" Plexiglas bubble windshield and a Bat-o-Meter for identifying bad guys. "I saw the script and it said, 'Bang,' 'Pow,' 'Boom,'" said Barris, whose legendary creation would sell at an auction for \$4.6 million in 2013. "That's exactly what I wanted the car to be able to do. I wanted it to be as big a character as the actors themselves." Born in Chicago and raised near Sacramento, Barris had a "penchant for tinkering with cars" that was apparent early on, said The Washington Post. At age 12, the Greek-American used knobs from his aunt's dresser to customise the grille of his first car, and later became deeply involved with Southern California's hot-rod crowd. Like other hot-rodders, Barris showed off his auto's imaginative fixtures at drive-ins and hamburger stands. But unlike the other young men's designs, Barris' "Kustom" creations would be replicated by Detroit auto firms, and eventually grabbed Hollywood's attention. The King of Kustomisers "did some of his most memorable work for television", said The New York Times. Among Barris' best-loved creations was the 18-foot-long "Munster Koach" for *The Munsters*, three Model T bodies welded together. Barris also worked on celebrity projects, like Elvis Presley's 1960 Cadillac – complete with a gold-plated record player. Rich or poor, Barris' clients all had the same motivation. "You go in to buy a car, you don't care if it's got a rubber band for an engine," he said. "You care how it looks first."

UAE: Gorgeous properties in Dubai



▲ **Dubai:** Surrounded by green landscape, this spacious villa is set within Sanctuary Falls in the Jumeirah Golf Estate. The formal living and dining areas are on the ground floor in an open-plan design, leading out to the garden and pool area. Four bedrooms are situated on the first floor, with an en suite guest bedroom on the ground floor. The garden has been beautifully shaped around a pool area and the wide timber deck is ideal for entertaining. \$2.7m; Sloanes Real Estate Brokers (+971 4) 552 1273



International: Beautiful homes in Europe



◀ **France:** Nestled in 4.6 hectares of wooded parkland, this exceptional Anglo-Norman manor is located in tranquil countryside near Deauville. The property features charming stone and wood finishes, fireplaces and tiled roof. The 250 sq. m living accommodation includes several bedrooms, dining and sitting rooms. It is surrounded by rolling acres of lush green lawns, immaculate gardens, two 100 sq.m outbuildings and private road access. \$4.5m; Emile Garcin Deauville (+33 231) 141 818.

► **Spain:** This contemporary townhouse is set in the sought-after La Balca residential area of PGA Catalunya resort. The property's open-plan layout highlights its large atrium and glass windows affording lots of natural light throughout the abode. The property is split over two levels and has three bedrooms. The house includes a state-of-the-art Bulthaup kitchen, two private parking space and a 90sq.m basement. The terrace blends seamlessly with the landscaped outdoors that contains an infinity pool and deck area. \$755,827 onwards. PGA Catalunya Real Estate (+34 972) 472 957.





▼ **Dubai:** Located in the private Al Barari residential area, this grand villa offers resort-style living with large living and entertaining areas. The residence features 6 bedrooms, all with en suite, multiple living and dining areas, a study and an independent maid's quarter. The outdoors comprises of two courtyards, a landscaped garden, swimming pool, lounging deck, spa and a plunge-pool. There is space to accommodate up to 3 cars and a basement storage room. \$14.9 m; Luxhabitat (+971 4) 4327972.



UK: Houses cited by art historian Nikolaus Pevsner



► **Norfolk:** Candles, Harleston. Described by Pevsner as "the finest of the brick houses of the town", this impressive Grade II house is now laid out as a 3-bed, 4-recep principal residence; a 3-bed, self-contained apartment; and a 3-bed attached cottage. The grounds include a range of outbuildings. \$1.2m; Durrants (+441 379) 852 217.



▲ **Warwickshire:** The Old Castle, Studley. A designated Ancient Monument dating from the 16th century, this beautifully presented house also comes with 2 self-contained apartments and an underground triple garage. Master suite with dressing room, 6 further beds (2 en suite), 3 receps, kitchen/breakfast room, snooker room, library. Landscaped gardens and paddock; about 4.5 acres. \$2.7m; Knight Frank (+441 789) 297 735.



▲ **Cumbria:** Rose Castle, Dalston. Rose Castle has a social and architectural history spanning almost 800 years, with a Rose motif seen throughout the castle. Lot 1: 16 beds (1 en-suite), 5 baths, 4 receps, state dining room, state drawing room, chapel, 2 studies, 4 tower rooms, 2 kitchens. 2 cottages, farmhouse, farm buildings, formal gardens and grounds of 61.46 acres. 2 further lots totalling 132 acres. Whole \$4,46m; Savills (+441 228) 546 400.

LEISURE

Food & Drink

Roast pumpkin and charred onion salad

Blending sweet, bitter and salty flavours, this salad is a bit different, says John Torode. Though deliciously autumnal, it can be served warm or cold all year round with any squashes that are in season. Dish it up in a big bowl, or get creative and make an attractive plate of it.

Recipe of the week

Roast pumpkin and charred onion salad

- 30ml olive oil, with extra for drizzling
- salt and freshly-ground black pepper
- 4 small onions, halved through their middle (through the “equator”)
- 500g piece of pumpkin or butternut squash, peeled, de-seeded and cut into golfball-sized chunks
- 100g curd cheese
- a small handful of flat-leaf parsley, leaves picked

Heat the oven to 220°C. Rub a large ovenproof frying pan with a little oil. Put the onions, cut-side down, into the pan



and fry over a high heat for about 5 minutes, without stirring, until coloured.

In a large bowl, toss the pumpkin with the remaining oil, then season with salt and pepper. Add to the pan of onions. Now you can move the onions: give the pan a good shake so that the onion pieces come free and get mixed in with the pumpkin. Put the pan into the oven and

roast for 25 minutes, until the pumpkin is golden and very slightly charred on the outside.

Take the pan out of the oven and decant the vegetables into a serving bowl. Dot the curd cheese over the veg in splodges, season, with more pepper and salt to taste. Drizzle with oil and toss the parsley over the top. Serves 4-6.

Taken from *My Kind of Food: Recipes I Love to Cook at Home* by John Torode, published by Headline

CheeMc

310 Walworth Road, London SE17, UK (+44 20) 7358 6929

Korean fried chicken (cooked in a much crisper, harder coating than the southern US variety) “is hot right now”, says Jay Rayner in *The Observer* – especially if you “go for the hard-core stuff, slathered in a chilli sauce the colour of the outflow from a severed jugular and finished with a sprinkle of sesame seeds”. I’ve got no time for “authenticity queens”, and I can’t tell you if the “fabulous” fried chicken at “no frills” CheeMc is the real thing since “I’ve never been to Korea and what the hell do I know”. What I can tell you is that “it’s the best I’ve ever tasted”, and great value for money. Everything we tried was terrific, including the *yangnyum* chicken, with a sweet chilli sauce that “tempers the heat with sugariness” for those who “don’t want their scalp to sweat”; and the *goochoo* chicken, a serious “hit of fire and salt”. There are plenty of non-poultry dishes to pick from too, and “if you fancy dessert there’s an ice-cream parlour across the road”.



Pacifico Tiki

Al Bandar, Al Raha Beach, Abu Dhabi, UAE, (+971 2) 556 6090

Pacifico Tiki is one of the many familiar venues in the capital to undergo a reboot, says *What’s On Abu Dhabi*. Formally Ornina, the waterside venue has been given a Polynesian twist. The venue is “more a romanticised version of the locale, with Easter Island-like statues and open flame fixtures making an appearance”. The décor “feels on point – but the menu feels a bit all over the place”. The crab Rangoon parcels were “good” but the spicy sauce it came with “was a disappointment”. The “bland sauce” made another appearance, this time in a grilled prawn dish. It “looked impressive but the flavours were weak”. Things improved, however, “with the honey and sesame seed salmon”, and the desserts – crème brûlée and cheesecake “were worth leaving room for”.

temperature when served, “but the intent and the unique combinations win most people over”.

Coco Frio

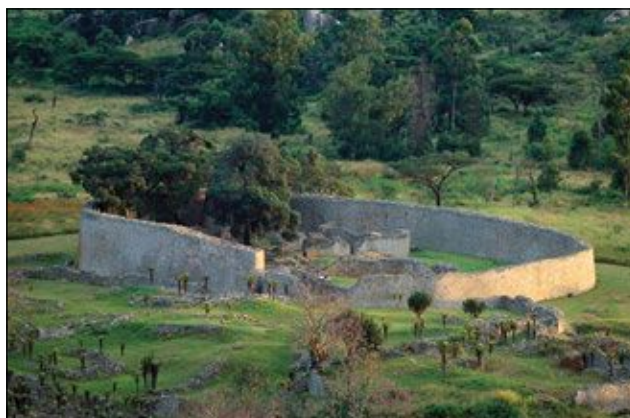
2937 Mission St., San Francisco, US (+1 415) 341 0134

Manny Torres Gimenez may be the hardest-working chef in the Mission, said Michael Bauer in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. In the past five years, the Venezuela native has held himself to self-financed shoestring budgeting while opening an acclaimed pop-up and several restaurants. His latest, Coco Frio, pays tribute to the childhood summers he spent on Isla Margarita, a Venezuelan island in the Caribbean. As at his other places, the décor is low-budget, and “service can be happenstance”, but the cooking “has an unwavering honesty”. At \$30, Coco Frio’s three-course prix fixe is a ridiculously good value, and begins with a fish soup that might include cactus pads, mussels and chanterelles, but always features a wonderfully complex broth. After a middle course of seafood appetisers, the main course might be herb-rubbed meat or a mixed meat plate of confit quail, Wagyu beef and house-made sausage. On such a plate, not everything is at optimum

This week's dream: Walking in the footsteps of ancient kings

The spiritual birthplace of modern Zimbabwe is set amid an arid landscape – “all aloes and thorn trees and dust”, said Doug Hendrie on RoadsandKingdoms.com. A thousand years ago, fertile soil was more plentiful, as was gold, which explains why a great capital rose here, on a hilltop overlooking today's Lake Mutirikwe. My wife and I knew the story before we set out to see the site: When 19th-century European archaeologists began excavating, they discovered stone ruins so large and intricate, they refused to believe that black Africans were the builders, and instead ascribed them to the Bible's Queen of Sheba. That myth was dead by the time British colonial rule ended in 1980, and the nation founded that year was named for this place: “Zimbabwe” is a Shona phrase meaning “houses of stone.”

We are halfway up the path to the perch of ancient kings when our guide, Tsuru, asks us to look back. We have seen remnants of high stone walls, but only now can we see the circular wall marking the Great Enclosure, the area where the king's many



Part of the Great Enclosure

wives and children lived, as well as his servants. The larger city once covered nearly three square miles, and the gold found in the area – some 40% of all the gold ever mined – drew traders bearing goods from Persia and China. The king's palace lies up ahead of us, and when we reach its first massive wall, we marvel at its craftsmanship. No mortar binds the granite bricks, yet the walls have survived many centuries. Wandering deeper into the palace, we come to an amphitheatre where the king once made sacrifices to the gods. At that moment, a school group arrives, and dozens of youngsters “bear us upward on

a tide of enthusiasm” to a lookout.

Here, eagles once soared overhead, fishing the local waters, and the great raptors' likenesses were captured in soapstone carvings that adorned high pillars on one wall of the palace. Though the originals now sit in a musty museum nearby, “even in the gloom of a small room, they have real power” – justifying the presence of one such eagle on the Zimbabwe national flag. *At the nearby Lodge at the Ancient City (lodgeattheancientcity.com), doubles start at \$185.*

Hotel of the week

Loose Reins Ranch, Dorset, UK

This American-style ranch, deep in a beech forest, is perfect for latent cowboys and girls, says Kate Kellaway in *The Guardian*. There are six cedar cabins, fitted out in “authentic” style, with verandas and rocking chairs, broad floorboards, patchwork quilts, “wood-burning stoves and a pleasant smell of resin.” Guests aren't obliged to ride the horses, but those who are interested can take lessons in “Western riding” (long rein, long stirrups) and even lassoing. The horses, “all rump and muscle” wear decorative saddles “as comfortable as the rocking chairs on the porch.”

Four-berth cabins from around \$150 per night. *Canopy & Stars (canopyandstars.co.uk/loosereins).*



Getting the flavour of...

From Angkor Wat by bicycle



pagodas” dazzle in red and gold, and guides teach the history of their countries, with stops at an “excellent” museum about the use of landmines, and a “sobering” tour of the Killing Fields. *Cambodia Cycling (cambodiacycling.com) has 10 days for \$1,200pp excluding flights, plus \$114 bike hire.*

Boot camp for the brain

Most spas offer treatments for the body but now there's one that works on your mind too, says Susan d'Arcy in *The Sunday Times*. SHA Wellness Clinic in Benidorm, already renowned for “top-notch pampering”, has opened a Cognitive Development Unit for people suffering “mild memory loss”, and anyone else who wants to boost their brain power. “Scientific and serious”, this “boot camp for the brain” first tests people for their “recollection, reaction time and attention span”. This is followed by a week of “neuro-feedback sessions”, in which electrodes monitor your brainwaves as you complete exercises believed to slow the progress of Alzheimer's and to increase cognitive capacity by up to 20%. *The Healthy Holiday Company (thehealthyholidaycompany.co.uk) has a one-week stay.*



Olympic gold medalist and Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins never had to negotiate paths blocked by water buffalo, says Harriet Alexander in *The Daily Telegraph*. But it's par for the course on a cycling holiday from Cambodia to Vietnam. The 10-day trip begins in Siem Reap province – “home of Angkor Wat” – and ends in Ho Chi Minh City, 350 miles away. A van carries the bags as you wheel along dusty tracks past “ponds thick with water lilies” and through villages of traditional Khmer homes on stilts. “Innumerable Buddhist

Companies in the news ...and how they were assessed

Riverland: Riding the crest

Dubai Parks and Resorts, developer of a mega theme park project in Dubai, has said that it has leased out 50% of retail space within Riverland, the waterfront district within the development, said Gulf Business. Riverland has 220,000 square feet of retail and dining units, which is also the connecting point between the three theme parks. In a recent update, the developer said that it has attracted major food and beverage names such as Famous Dave's barbeque, South Africa's Galito's Flame Grilled Chicken, Tortilla, Simit Sarayi and 800 Degrees Pizza. Popular establishments such as Irish Village, Big Chefs and modern Emirati restaurant Milas will also open in Riverland. Jamba Juice, Fuzziwigs Candy Factory, and Starbucks are some of the major brands offering beverage and lighter bites in the district. Dubai Parks and Resorts said that the first retail stores to sign up for Riverland were the beachwear brand Havainas and Sun Eye optics. "We started the leasing process of the 50-plus outlets available in May and in less than four months almost 50% of the units have been leased by great brands that we know our guests will really love," said Dubai Parks and Resorts Vice President of Retail and Hospitality Klaus Assmann. Riverland.

Rolls-Royce: Revival plan

"Previous disclosure has undermined confidence in the business model," ran an update from Rolls-Royce chief Warren East, ahead of this week's strategic overhaul. "Top marks to Mr East for stating the blindingly obvious" after four profit warnings in a year, "two of them on his watch", said Jonathan Guthrie on FT.com. East pledged a "major restructuring" in an effort to revive the aero and marine engine group, resulting in savings of \$230-\$300m a year. But the details of his plan were keenly awaited by analysts and investors. His hint of a "focused power systems portfolio" will doubtless stimulate talk of potentially controversial disposals. The pressure on East is mounting, said Andrew Saunders in Management Today. The US activist investor ValueAct (best known for "persuading" Microsoft boss Steve Ballmer to step down in 2014) upped its stake in RR to 10% last week, "making it by far the firm's largest single investor". ValueAct also wants a seat on the board. That request has been turned down; but, following a halving of shares in the last year, East must be "in no doubt that the clock is ticking".

HBOS: Never-ending story

The Bank of England's 549-page report into the \$30bn collapse of Halifax Bank of Scotland (HBOS) in 2008 largely catalogues "what we knew already", said Ivan Fallon in The Sunday Times: "that HBOS was run by reckless and inexperienced non-bankers, that it lent far too much money to high-risk property developers and relied too heavily on the wholesale market for its funds". Fortunately Lloyds Bank, which was "pressed" into rescuing the lender by the Brown government, "survived" the ordeal. The much-delayed report, written by Andrew Green QC, censures HBOS chiefs James Crosby and Andy Hornby for pursuing "a breakneck expansion policy" unchallenged by a "glittering" board of business grandees, said Alex Brummer in the Daily Mail. There will now be "a fresh investigation" into the lender's top brass, said The Observer. Transparency remains the best disinfectant, "even when it is applied belatedly".

Gulf business

Dubai-based air service provider dnata has announced that it will buy the majority stake in Brazil-based RM Ground Services. The acquisition marks dnata's entry into the South American market. RM Ground Services, which was founded in 2004, is a major player in Brazil amongst ground service providers. The company has 2,100 employees and serves over 400 flights a day at 24 airports across Brazil. In the past five years, dnata has made multi-million investments at over 40 airports in Italy, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Romania, and the Czech Republic.

The UAE has announced that it will invest over \$81.6bn on the adoption of a new science, technology and innovation higher policy which will include 100 national initiatives.

Tecom Group is launching a new innovation hub for media startups next year as part of a \$16.3m investment. The Dubai-based telecommunication company has announced the formation of in5 Media, a platform to serve as base to 200 media-focused businesses. Based in the International Media Production Zone, the new base comes as part of the company's \$1.23bn innovation Strategy announced last year.

Abu Dhabi recorded a 21% rise in visitors, the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority revealed. During the three-month period, a total of 951,979 visitors checked into the emirate's 169 hotels and hotel apartments – up 21% over the same period in 2014.

Pfizer/Allergan: Deep wrinkles in the Botox merger

Nearly two years after Pfizer began its ill-fated bid to grab Britain's AstraZeneca in a tax "inversion" deal, the US drugs giant "has finally found a willing bedfellow", said Julia Bradshaw in The Daily Telegraph. Pfizer is to buy Dublin-based Allergan in a \$160bn deal that will create the world's largest drug maker, and allow Pfizer to slash its tax bill by moving its domicile to Ireland. The deal – which unites a stable of drugs including Allergan's Botox – was attacked by US politicians across the spectrum.

"Once upon a time, the only place you'd find that many pills and Botox under one roof was at Hugh Hefner's Playboy pad," said Alistair Osborne in The Times. "Not now." But this is "an unpatriotic deal, all right." At a stroke, Pfizer slashes its tax rate from 25.5% to 18%. Add in the \$2bn of mooted cost cuts, and



US drugs giant will slash its tax bill

Pfizer's Scottish-born boss, Ian Read, "can just about justify" the 30% premium paid for Allergan – even before the potential tax savings on repatriating Pfizer's \$74bn of foreign earnings. "Strangely, his press release doesn't mention the word 'inversion'. But people don't generally talk about their Botox habits either."

Read is sending a "catch me if you can message" to US lawmakers, said Nils Pratley in The Guardian. He might succeed in rushing this deal to completion before they can react, but with presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton already "on the warpath" over high drug prices, Congress isn't going to roll over. There is an easy populist line for Clinton to adopt with Pfizer: "you don't like our taxes, and we really don't like your prices." No wonder Pfizer's share price, down since the deal was unveiled, "hasn't even managed a cosmetic improvement"

Iranian oil will bring some pain

Daniel Yergin

Bloomberg

Global demand for crude will bring more balance to the oil market as soon as next year, according to Pulitzer Prize-winning author and energy consultant Daniel Yergin and OPEC Secretary General Abdalla El-Badri. The oil market will rebalance in 2016 or 2017, as demand grows between 1.2 million barrels per day and 1.5 million barrel per day through 2020, Yergin, vice chairman of consultants IHS, said in a speech in Abu Dhabi. Demand will rise by about 17 million barrels a day to almost 110 million barrels a day by 2040, with 70% of the growth to come from Asia, the head of OPEC said at an event in Doha. However, there will be some pain to bear along this course: "The next few quarters are going to continue to be tough as Iranian oil comes back into the market. We really see 2016 as the year of transition." Current market volatility is the result of oversupply, mostly from high-cost producers, and oil stocks are above the five-year average. Energy industry investment in exploration and production fell 20%, or by about \$130bn from 2014 to 2015.

Life on the corporate road

Editorial

The Economist

"For well over a century, people have predicted that technology will make business travel obsolete," says The Economist. In 1889, Jules Verne imagined that the "phonotelephone" – a device allowing "the transmission of images by means of sensitive mirrors connected by wires" – would replace overseas meetings. "Yet far from stowing their suitcases and signing in to Skype, the corporate world's road warriors are clocking up more miles than ever." According to the Global Business Travel Association, companies will spend a record \$1.25trn this year on work trips. There might be less demand for expensive jet-setting if teleconferencing technology were more reliable, but all the same, firms "still place great store by face-to-face meetings". Life has, however, become tougher for "road warriors". Companies are "stingier" about flight and room upgrades; stricter airport security eats up time; and ubiquitous Wi-Fi means there's less chance of enjoying a few hours' downtime. Despite this, most executives say they enjoy life on the road. Perhaps it's because "the daily grind back at base has got a lot tougher too".

There's no place like Yahoo

Lucy Kellaway

Financial Times

Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer isn't winning any popularity contests these days, but that's exactly why I like her so much, said Lucy Kellaway. "She does unpopular things that are much needed in the modern corporate world." Early in her tenure, Mayer famously banned working from home, bravely pushing back against a trend that's bad both for companies and for workers. Her latest move is "almost as daring, and just as necessary": making her top executives formally pledge to stay with Yahoo for the next three to five years. Some observers scoff that this is a desperate move to keep "the rats from leaving the ship," but I think Mayer's hit on something big. Today's overpaid executives "switch jobs the minute something better comes along." That's no way to run a business; executives need to "have some obligation to complete the tasks they have started". Justifying another of Mayer's recent stunts – making some of these same lieutenants join her for a photo shoot dressed as characters from The Wizard of Oz – is a little trickier. But this too "is a stroke of genius."

The digital future of banking

Kate Hughes

The Independent on Sunday

The rapid growth of the financial technology (fintech) industry has sparked "a digital revolution" in consumer banking, says Kate Hughes. Global investment in fintech ventures tripled in 2014, with uncertain consequences for today's banks. Banking is becoming easier and faster, but also "heavily automated, isolated and virtual". Digital disruption could either shrink banks' "role and relevance" in the teeth of online tools such as Apple Pay, or help them create better and cheaper services. One vital growth area is what Accenture calls "living services" – systems that learn our habits, likes and dislikes, encouraging banks to believe they could carve out a new niche playing "a more supportive role in our lives". For instance, if your bank knew your power consumption, it could predict your future financial state more accurately; and if it knew you were travelling, it could negotiate better ATM currency rates. But will people welcome this intrusion? Without evidence of a change in the banks' underlying culture, any attempt to play a more intimate role is likely to be greeted with suspicion.

City profiles

John Cryan

Shock news from Deutsche Bank, said Nick Goodway in the London Evening Standard. The bank's new boss, John Cryan, reckons bankers are paid too much – and has questioned the need to pay bonuses. "Many people in the sector still believe they should be paid entrepreneurial wages for turning up to work with a regular salary, a pension and probably a healthcare scheme, and playing with other people's money," he said this week – adding that he couldn't understand the lure of "excess riches". Cryan's view, unsurprisingly, is not popular with his peers, some of whom accuse him of "playing to the gallery", said the FT. Others note that many recent Deutsche hires have been paid "very competitively". Cryan's own salary has yet to be revealed.

Carolyn Fairbairn



The CBI's first female director-general has had a "torrid baptism in the job", says The Independent. As well as inheriting a nasty row about Europe, she's been criticised for her political views. On arrival at the bosses' club this week, the former BBC and ITV strategy director sought to smooth things over, by moderating the CBI's "Europhile tone" and issuing "warm words" for the UK government's austerity agenda. But Fairbairn has ruffled feathers even so. "Clearly blessed with a sense of what really matters in life," she's called for an end to business dinners, arguing that many people "would rather go home to their families in the evening" than submit to this "vestige of old business life". It won't go down well with everyone, but "we applaud this voice of sanity".

Who's tipping what

The week's best buys

Bodycote*The Times*

Bodycote provides heat-treatment services to a range of industries and is maintaining margins and investing in greenfield operations. Restructuring will remove £10m of costs to combat tough oil and gas markets. Buy. 538p.

Carclo*The Daily Telegraph*

The producer of plastics for medical and electronic devices is now recovering following a failed investment. Sales of LED lighting for luxury cars (a third of revenues) are up 48% with profits surging 65%. Buy. 123p.

HICL Infrastructure*The Daily Telegraph*

The investment trust provides a government-backed, inflation-linked 4.8% yield with returns generated from hospitals, schools and government buildings. Shares traded at a premium, but are worth it for the big payout. Buy. 153.1p.

SCS Group*The Mail on Sunday*

Sofa and carpet specialist SCS is expanding steadily with two or three new stores a year, concessions in House of Fraser, and online. Sales have risen 7.9% and profits are expected to be up 24%. Yields 7.5%. Buy. 186p.

St Ives*Investors Chronicle*

St Ives's high-margin strategic marketing division sees mounting demand for data analytics, digital marketing and consultancy. A stabilised book market and overseas expansion should boost growth. Yields 4.5%. Buy. 196p.

United Utilities*The Sunday Times*

A parasite discovered in treatment works near Preston may hit profits at United Utilities, which provides water for seven million people in the Northwest. But the damage should be temporary, and it still yields 3.8%. Buy. 987p.

...and some to sell

DX Group*Investors Chronicle*

The main impetus for investing in the parcels and documents courier was the generous yield. But shares have plunged by 70% on a profit warning, and the dividend has evaporated. Sell. 25p.

Fidessa Group*Shares*

Negativity hanging over trading systems supplier Fidessa may deliver more "profit fireworks" and a de-rating. Brokers are worried about growth challenges, consolidating end markets and the "mind-boggling" rating. Sell. £19.15.

Millennium & Copthorne*Shares*

The Asia-focused hotel operator has seen profits fall due to problematic visa restrictions in Taipei, and Middle East respiratory syndrome in Seoul. Credit Suisse forecasts profits will be down by 24.7%. Sell. 472.5p.

Poundland Group*The Daily Telegraph*

The discount retailer has pursued expansion at the expense of profits, and trading has been "highly volatile". The living wage will add to costs, and sales are down. Management needs to focus on stabilising results. Sell. 222.7p.

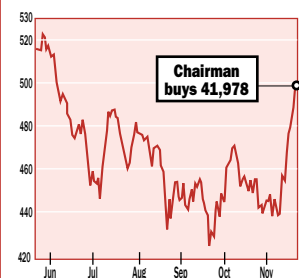
Stanley Gibbons*Investors Chronicle*

Shares in the stamp and coin dealer have crashed by 10% after "predictably awful" results: sales have fallen 21% and the dividend has been scrapped. Reliance on a better second half does not inspire confidence. Sell. 99p.

Xeros Technology Group*Shares*

Xeros has invented a patented low chemical, low water intensity washing machine. But it is capital-intensive. The firm has withdrawn from a pledge to self-fund the roll-out, and this year's revenues were less than £500,000. Sell. 251.5p.

Directors' dealings

BAE Systems

Shares in the defence group jumped after the Indian PM Narendra Modi's UK visit, on reports of a contract to buy up to 20 Hawk trainer aircraft. Chairman Roger Carr bought into the good cheer, increasing his stake by 84%.

SOURCES: FINANCIAL TIMES/REUTERS

Form guide

Shares tipped 12 weeks ago

Best tip**Card Factory**

Investors Chronicle
up 2.04% to 365.3p

Worst tip**Savills**

Investors Chronicle
down 9.54% to 891p

Market view

"Terrible borrowing figures provide a grim back drop to the Autumn Statement."

Samuel Tombs of Pantheon Macroeconomics. Quoted in the FT

Market summary

Key numbers for investors

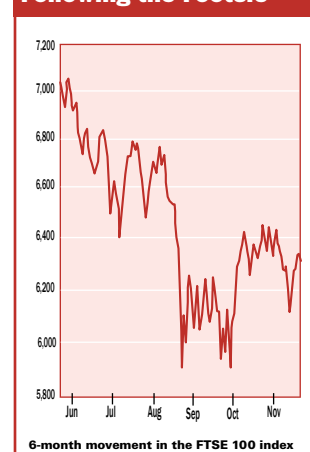
	24 Nov 2015	Week before	Change (%)
FTSE 100	6277.23	6268.76	0.14%
FTSE All-share UK	3441.04	3441.97	-0.03%
Dow Jones	17799.13	17576.98	1.26%
NASDAQ	5088.00	5017.27	1.41%
Nikkei 225	19924.89	19630.63	1.50%
Hang Seng	22587.63	22264.25	1.45%
Gold	1076.40	1079.20	-0.26%
Brent Crude Oil	46.22	43.73	5.69%
DIVIDEND YIELD (FTSE 100)	3.95%	3.93%	
UK 10-year gilts yield	1.85	1.98	
US 10-year Treasuries	2.23	2.30	
UK ECONOMIC DATA			
Latest CPI (yoy)	-0.1% (Oct)	-0.1% (Sep)	
Latest RPI (yoy)	0.7% (Oct)	0.8% (Sep)	
Halifax house price (yoy)	+9.7% (Oct)	+8.6% (Sep)	
£1 STERLING	\$1.509 €1.419 ¥184.991		

Best and worst performing shares

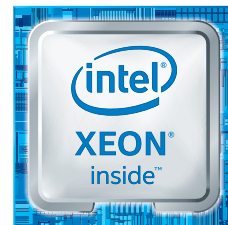
WEEK'S CHANGE, FTSE 100 STOCKS		
RISES	Price	% change
Johnson Matthey	2779.00	+15.02
Hikma Pharmaceuticals	2100.00	+7.53
Royal Mail	487.40	+7.19
Fresnillo	714.00	+6.25
Rolls-Royce Holdings	588.00	+5.95
FALLS		
G4S	214.80	-8.32
Intl.Cons.Airl.Gp.(Cdi)	549.50	-7.10
EasyJet	1594.00	-6.78
Burberry Group	1195.00	-6.35
Whitbread	4306.00	-5.24
BEST AND WORST UK STOCKS OVERALL		
China New Energy	3.12	+127.27
Halosource	11.62	-39.61

Source: Datastream (not adjusted for dividends). Prices on 24 Nov (pm)

Following the Footsie



6-month movement in the FTSE 100 index



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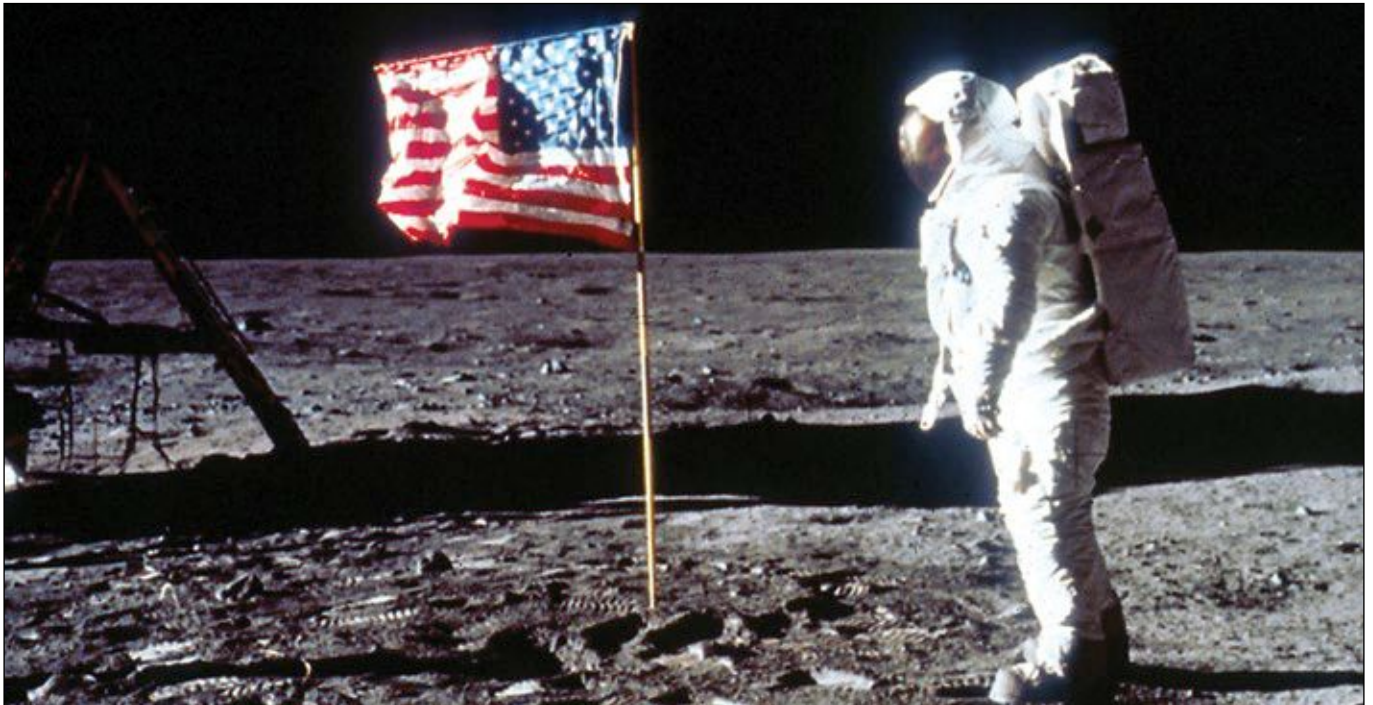


Based on Units Shipped. IDC Quarterly Worldwide Workstation Tracker Q2 CY2014.

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The fraught journey to the Sea of Tranquility

The moment that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon was one of the most extraordinary in human history – but until seconds earlier, there was a very real risk of the mission being aborted



Aldrin and the American flag in the Sea of Tranquility

With 10 minutes remaining to touchdown, Eagle – the Apollo 11 mission's lunar module (LM) – was 50,000 feet above the surface of the Moon. Neil Armstrong and Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin stood side by side, spacesuited, anchored to the floor by harnesses. Everything had gone according to plan so far and preparations were on schedule. They had pressurised Eagle's fuel tanks, primed the computer and checked their trajectory by training their navigation telescope on the Sun. They activated the camera and armed the descent engine. Then Aldrin pressed the ignition button and the rocket engine came to life. Thirty seconds later, the cabin shuddered as they roared to full thrust. And now there was a problem.

Eagle was facing the Moon, and Armstrong noticed that the landmarks he navigated by were coming up two seconds ahead of expectation: they were set to overshoot the landing area, but the computer hadn't picked up the error. At 46,000 feet, he flipped the craft over so that the landing radar faced down and he and Aldrin found themselves looking up at the shimmering, mirage-like Earth. The ride was noticeably jerkier than in simulation, and as Aldrin compared data from the radar and computer, he found a discrepancy of several thousand feet. Knowing the radar to be more reliable, he decided to instruct the computer to accept its information and act on it, but as he hit the necessary buttons, the piercing buzz of the Master Alarm filled Eagle's cabin. They looked down and saw the “PROG” light glowing sulphuric amber on the computer display.

“Program alarm,” said Armstrong. His voice stayed even, but the words were clipped, urgent. Aldrin instructed the computer to supply the alarm code and “1202” flashed onto the screen. He didn't know what this meant, but suspected that it was something to do with the computer being overloaded. This had failed to happen in any of the simulations he'd been a part of. Now wasn't

the time for it. The focus turned to Earth and the 35-year-old flight director, Gene Kranz. He knew the alarm was serious, because he'd seen something like it in the first week of July and aborted the virtual mission as a result. He and his staff had been having problems for the last hour, with communications cutting out – sending Mission Control screens blank and filling headsets with static then resuming for barely long enough to justify continuing the descent. There was a 2.6-second delay in communications with the Moon, and so no time for elaboration. In simulations, controllers had discovered a “dead-man's box” which was defined by this delay, in which the lunar module would always hit the surface before they could react to a problem and order an abort, and about which nothing could be done. Now the exchanges were breathless and suspended, like the Eagle itself.

Kranz quickly consulted the people around him, listening for signs of strain in their voices, then turned to the young MIT boffin Steve Bales. But the LM computer was complicated. Bales knew that it wanted to abort the mission. What he didn't know was why. So he relayed the problem to his backroom experts, who guessed that the computer, finding itself with too many tasks to perform – again, no one knew why – was automatically returning to the start of its computation cycle, to begin again.

In the background, Armstrong could be heard requesting tersely: “Give us a reading on the 1202 program alarm.” Aborting a landing at this stage was neither easy, nor certain of success, and once you'd done it, there was no room for further failure. They decided to carry on. So long as the alarm was intermittent, they could continue their descent safely. If it became continuous, however, the computer could stop working altogether and they were lost. Standing at the flight controls of the plummeting lander, Armstrong heard capsule communicator Charlie Duke's voice.

“You are go for landing.” The trouble was that he and Aldrin had been distracted by the alarms and the mental preparations for an abort. By the time the computer had been pacified and attention returned to the task of getting Eagle down, the Moon was only 1,000ft below and they were racing past the inviting plain on which their hopes had been pinned. In the huge, glowing control room, 70 people who’d spent months and years training for this moment caught their breaths in unison when the landing radars abruptly corrected themselves and the little Space Invaders graphic in front of them jumped to four miles off-range: at six, mission rules called for a mandatory abort.



Armstrong inside Eagle, Apollo 11's lunar module

Armstrong looked ahead and was not thrilled by what he saw: a field of huddled boulders, gathered like the remains of an ancient cemetery around the dark lip of a crater, into which the computer was blindly flying them. He made some quick calculations as to whether he could bring the fragile, bug-shaped craft down in front of the boulder field, knowing that they were probably composed of lunar bedrock and the geologists would be ecstatic, but realised that they were still going too fast. He pressed some buttons and took control of the craft, pitching it forward until it was almost upright. Now the rocket was slowing their rate of descent, without diminishing forward speed. He would try to set down in the first clear space he saw. No one except Armstrong knew about the crater or the boulders.

Aldrin had his eyes fixed on the instrument panel and was issuing a steady stream of data, which is what Mission Control and the rest of us were hearing. “Three hundred and fifty feet... down at four... three hundred thirty, six and a half down...” Aldrin’s mantra was reassuring, but masked the fact that, with his partner too absorbed in finding a way to bring Eagle down before her fuel ran out to tell anyone what was happening, even Mission Control was in the dark. All they knew was that the plan had been ditched and Armstrong was now on his own, a quarter of a million miles from home. There was nothing they could do to help. Duke whispered to Kranz: “I think we’d better be quiet.”

Three hundred and fifty feet up, Eagle skimmed over the boulders. Armstrong pitched her back to a rearward angle in order to avoid picking up too much speed. He banked left to skirt another field of rocks as the Moon seemed to rear up at him and telemetry showed his heart rate surge. “How’s the fuel?” he asked Aldrin. An unnatural calm in his voice masked the fact that his pulse was now racing at more than 150 beats per minute. “8%,” came the reply. Less than in the simulations.

At 250ft, Aldrin stole his first glance out of the window, then quickly returned to his instruments. Armstrong was still searching for a landing site: he chose one, then discovered it to be flanked by another crater. There was now 90 seconds’ worth of fuel left, but 20 of those had to be saved for an abort: if they got to that stage and still hadn’t landed, the computer would automatically try to shoot them back into space and putative safety, no matter how close they were to the surface.

Back in the control room, an automatic sequencer had begun counting down to such an eventuality, and everyone knew it.

Armstrong edged forward and saw a clearing of about 200ft², bounded by craters on one side and more boulders on the other. The Moon was 100ft beneath them. This had to be the place.

Eagle needed to be brought down in a straight vertical line. Any horizontal movement at the point of impact could snap off one of her matchstick legs. Yet, as he listened to Aldrin reciting his litany of figures – “60 feet... down two and a half... two forward... two forward...” – Armstrong suddenly found his view stolen by an eruption of dust and rock that arced away in dense sheets, obscuring the landing area completely. Momentarily unsettled, he was training his eyes on some distant rocks in order to maintain his bearing when he heard Charlie Duke’s voice in his ear, warning “60 seconds”.

No one in Mission Control knew about the crater, the boulders, the dust. All they knew was that in every successful simulation Armstrong had landed by now. The years of preparation, the billions of dollars, the lives that had been sacrificed – most notably the crew of Apollo 1 30 months previously – all that energy and ingenuity and life was now compacted into the next 60 seconds and the judgement of one man. The room was held in an agonised silence.

At 30ft, Armstrong found Eagle to be drifting backwards. He didn’t know why, but knew that landing while he couldn’t see where he was going would be extremely dangerous. He wrestled with the controls, eventually halting the backward movement, but picking up a horizontal drift in the process. They were now hanging 20ft above the surface of the Moon and had entered the “dead-man’s curve” – the point at which bailing out becomes impossible and if the manoeuvre doesn’t work, you crash.

“Armstrong looked ahead and was not thrilled by what he saw: the computer was flying their fragile craft into a field of huddled boulders”

From the Earth: “30 seconds.” Aldrin: “Contact light.” Through the storm of dust, whiskery probes attached to the LM’s feet had made contact with something. The pilot had been instructed to cut Eagle’s descent engine at this height, because engineers calculated that it could be blown up by the back pressure from its own exhaust if he didn’t. But Armstrong didn’t do it. In his fight to keep the thing steady, he failed to hear Aldrin’s call. Fortunately, the engineers were wrong about the back pressure.

Still firing, Eagle settled into the dust so easily that neither man felt the impact. Armstrong’s hand flew to the Engine Stop button and he announced: “Shutdown.” There was a whirr of action as he hit more switches and buttons, and Aldrin ran through the post-landing checklist. Then there was a moment of stillness.

The two men turned to face each other, grinning through their visors, and clasped hands. After what seemed like an age, Armstrong advised a waiting world that the Eagle had landed. The announcement that his words were coming from “Tranquility Base” threw Charlie Duke, who became tongue-tied and began “Roger, Twan” before correcting himself. “We copy you on the ground. You got a bunch of guys about to turn blue. We’re breathing again.” They were on the Sea of Tranquility. With 10 seconds’ worth of fuel to spare, they were down.

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THE WEEK CROSSWORD 084

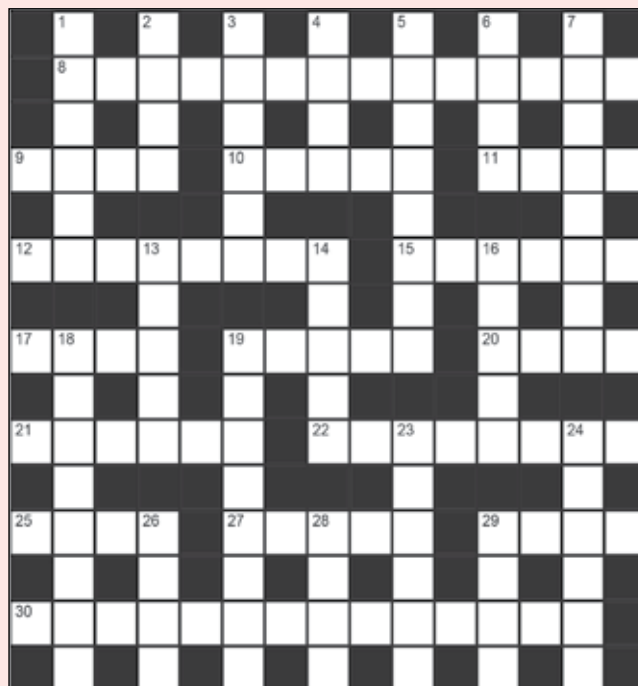
ACROSS

- 8 Gunner goes real sick? Call for me! (7,7)
9 Store's not opened? Shoddy goods (4)
10 Article of faith, whichever way you look at it (5)
11 Seafood, not very good, can give you gyp (4)
12 Confectionery stalls or otherwise (8)
15 Who might show annoyance, after getting line caught? (6)
17 Second wordplay twisted (4)
19 Finger is bent? (5)
20 That's rubbish, mate! (4)
21 Orders one Democrat to go into bonds (6)
22 Enterprise perhaps shown abroad? It's sharp (8)
25 Selects images mentioned (4)
27 Lounger employed less? (5)
29 Type of plane many backed (4)
30 Escaping the Bar could be a "brief" respite! (9,5)

DOWN

- 1 Hands working in Algiers not good (6)
2 Trip going north, walker tested partly (4)
3 Advisor of soldiers on hill (6)
4 Soon priest blows his top (4)
5 Sootsman into bog plants (8)
6 God entreated from below (4)
7 In which you could see nude in show with music (8)
13 Muslim in student union turned up (5)
14 Fasteners for elite troops (5)
16 Entrances a billionaire entrepreneur (5)
18 Row with French vegetables outside French city (8)
19 No parking space has feeble illumination (8)
23 Sort of clue to make one mad (6)
24 Renoir represented by evening worker! (6)
26 Cliff, Mark and Craig (4)
28 Last letter supporting love over in European city (4)
29 Spoils son, amusing chap (4)

Clue of the week: A proud mop to be sporting
(9) *The Sunday Times*



Solution to Crossword 082

ACROSS: 1 Grasshopper 7 Bearing 8 Larking 10 Lady's maid 12 Heels 13 Yanks 15 Picks 17 Tar 18 Ail 20 Llama 21 Ripen 23 Cutey 24 Misinform 26 Sir John 27 Aimless 28 Pathologist
DOWN: 1 Gladden 2 Adios 3 Sag 4 Oiled 5 Purchaser 6 Raiment 7 Belly dances 9 Gastronomes 11 Alpha 14 Sallyport 16 Chaps 19 Lets rip 22 Project 24 Mango 25 Nimbi 27 Ago
Clue of the week: Odd parts for chaps in film, being this? (7, first letter M) Observer, Everyman **Solution:** PEERAGE (PEE + RAGE)

Sudoku 084 (very difficult)

			5		6		9
3			2		4		1 7
9		5				2 8	
		7	9 8		4 5		
6	5	8	7				2
	4	9					
8							
4		2		9	1		3
			3		8		

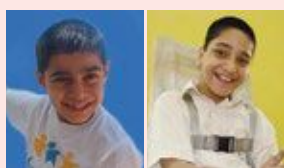
Fill in all the squares so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9

Solution to Sudoku 083

2	5	6	4	7	9	8	1	3
8	4	1	6	5	3	9	7	2
7	3	9	8	2	1	6	4	5
1	9	8	5	3	2	4	6	7
3	6	2	7	4	8	1	5	9
4	7	5	1	9	6	2	3	8
9	1	4	3	8	7	5	2	6
5	2	7	9	6	4	3	8	1
6	8	3	2	1	5	7	9	4

Charity of the week

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